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JACKSON, W.

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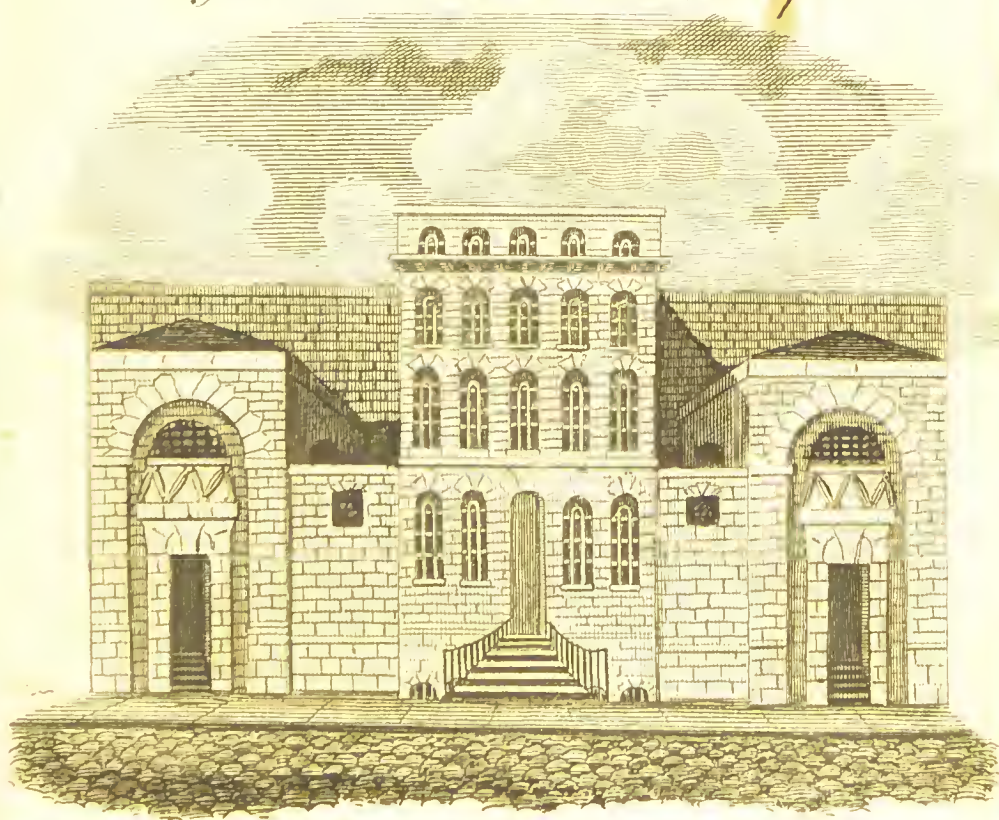
Inside View of
JUSTICE HALL, in the OLD BAILEY,
The Court Sitting, and the manner of
Trying Prisoners at the Bar.

Published by Alex^r Hogg

26720

The
New & Complete
NEWGATE CALENDAR
— OR —
VILLANY DISPLAYED
In all its Branches.

*Containing: Accounts of the most Notorious Malefactors
From the Year 1700 to the Present Time.*
By W^m JACKSON, Esq.^r



LONDON :

Published by ALEX^r HOGG, at the King's Arms, A 210 Paternoster Row.



THE
NEW AND COMPLETE
Newgate Calendar;
OR,
VILLANY DISPLAYED
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Containing New and Authentic Accounts of all the Lives, Adventures, Exploits, Trials, Executions, and Last Dying Speeches, Confessions, (as well as Letters to their Relatives never before published) of the most notorious Malefactors and others of both Sexes and all Denominations, who have suffered Death, and other exemplary Punishments, for

Murders,	Forgeries,	Rapes,	Swindling,
Burglaries,	Highway Robberies,	Riots, Mobbing,	High-Treason,
Felonies,	Footpad Robberies,	Sodomy,	Petit-Treason,
Horse-Stealing,	Perjuries,	Starving to Death,	Sedition, and other
Bigamy,	Piracies,	Sheep Stealing,	Misdemeanors.

Interpersed with Notes, Reflections, and Remarks, arising from the several Subjects, Moral, Useful, and Entertaining.

Including the Transactions of the most remarkable Prisoners, tried for High Treason at the Old Bailey, viz. HARDY, HORNE TOOKE, THRELWALL, &c.

Likewise the Trials of WATT, DOWNIE, PALMER, FITZGERALD, MARGAROTT, &c. &c. at Edinburgh for High Treason, Sedition, Libels, &c. &c.

Comprehending also, all the most material Passages in the SESSIONS PAPERS for a long Series of Years; Together with the ORDINARY of NEWGATE'S Account of the CAPITAL CONVICTS; and complete NARRATIVES of all the most remarkable TRIALS.

Also a great Variety of the most important Lives and Trials never before published in any former Work of the Kind.

The whole containing the most faithful Narratives ever yet published of the various Executions, and other exemplary Punishments which have happened in England, Scotland, and Ireland, from the Year 1700, to the present Time. Properly arranged from the Records of Court.

By WILLIAM JACKSON, Esq.

Of the Inner-Temple, Barrister at Law; Assisted by Others.

How dreadful the Fate of the Wretches who fall,
A victim of Laws they have broke!
Of Vice, the Beginning is frequently small,
But how fatal at length is the Stroke!
The contents of these Volumes will amply display
The Steps which Offenders have trod:
Learn hence, then, each Reader, the Laws to obey
Of your Country, your King, and your God.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL I

Illustrated with upwards of Sixty elegant Copper Plates.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETORS:

Published by ALEX. HOGG, at No. 16, Paternoster Row;
And Sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.



G E O R G E III. R.



(C O P Y.)

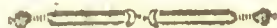
GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, King
of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender
of the Faith, &c.

To all whom these Presents shall come Greeting:

WHEREAS the Publisher of this valuable and
entertaining Work hath humbly represented to Us,
that he hath been at very great Labour and Expence in
collecting Books and Manuscripts, and in employing
divers Persons to write and compile a Work, entituled,
The New Newgate Calendar; or Villany displayed
in all its Branches: Containing an authentic Account
of the Lives, Adventures, Trials, Executions, and last
Dying Speeches, of the most notorious Malefactors of
all Denominations, who have fallen a Sacrifice to the
just and equitable Laws of their Country: The whole
being the most faithful Narrative ever published, of the
various Executions and other Punishments, in England,
Scotland, and Ireland, from the Year 1700, to the
present Time; accompanied with proper Reflections
arising

arising from the several Subjects: Which Work the Publisher humbly apprehends will be of the utmost Advantage to our Subjects in general, and more especially to the Youth of these Kingdoms; as by exhibiting the Gradations of Vice, and shewing the Picture in its native Deformity, it will effectually advance the Cause of Religion and Virtue. We being willing to give all due Encouragement to this Undertaking, do therefore, by these Presents; so far as may be agreeable to the Statute in that Case made and provided, grant unto the Publisher, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, Our License for the sole Printing, Publishing and Vending, the said Work, for the Term of fourteen Years; strictly forbidding all our Subjects within our Kingdoms and Dominions, to reprint, abridge, or publish the same, either in the like or any other Volume or Volumes whatsoever; or to import, buy, vend, utter, or distribute, any Copies thereof, reprinted beyond the Seas, during the aforesaid Term of fourteen Years, without the Consent or Approbation of the Publisher, his Heirs, Executors, or Assigns, under their Hands and Seals, first had and obtained, as they will answer the contrary at their Perils. Wherefore the Commissioners, and other Officers of our Customs, the Master, Wardens, and COMPANY of STATIONERS, are to take Notice that due obedience may be rendered to Our Will and Pleasure herein declared. Given at our Court at St. James's,

By his Majesty's Command.



INTRODUCTION.

THE wisest men, both in ancient and modern times have agreed, that nothing leaves so strong an impression on the human mind, as a recital of those crimes, for which many have forfeited their lives to the injured laws of their country. Such examples are set up as marks of the frailty of human nature, and may serve to teach us, that let our station be whatever it will, we are not beyond the reach of temptation; and unless we keep the fear of God constantly before us, attending to our duty as the allurements to vice will become so strong, that we may be led gradually to commit the most odious crimes, and end our lives with shame and infamy.

The many atrocious offences which are daily perpetrated in different parts of the Kingdom, in defiance of the laws, call aloud for a Publication of this kind, to put private persons on their guard against the *designing cheat*, and the more *open and daring robber*.

In former times one notorious act of *shocking delinquency*, was sufficient to furnish Matter of Wonder to the public for a long time, but of *late years* vice has made such *bold and daring strides*, that one act of *Enormity* is swallowed up in another; and ere we cease our *surprize* at the first, it is re-excited by some *newer and more atrocious Villany*.

New laws, new regulations, and new modes of punishment, have been devised—but almost in vain; something seems wanting which may tend rather to prevent the offence than punish the offenders.

At present nothing promises so fair to operate as a preventive remedy against felonious acts, as the frequent

frequent and careful perusal of the modes by which similar acts of felony have been perpetrated and the horrid Effects that have followed such perpetration.

The dissipation of this nation has multiplied the number of crimes, and occasioned new statutes to be framed, for putting a stop to the growing evil; because such striking incidents have happened in the course of the present century, as were not known, nor even thought of, for many years before—The multitude of places set apart for the entertainment of the gay, and the thoughtless has contributed towards the ruin of many youth of both sexes; for pleasure is of so bewitching a nature, that in order to gratify a sensual passion we are often led to commit the greatest crimes. Hence the ruin of many youth who, had it not been for the alluring temptations to vice, might have lived to the inexpressible joy of their relations, and been an honour and an ornament to their country. But it is not youth alone that are blameable: for many who have lived to advanced years are either so destitute of virtuous principles, or so little masters of their natural tempers, that they are often hurried both into excesses and crimes, without reflecting on the fatal consequences.

To prevent our fellow subjects from committing crimes, and to promote their interest and honour in the world, this Work is offered the Public; on a plan entirely new, and more comprehensive than any ever yet published on the same subject. From a great variety of authors, both printed and in manuscript, we have selected the lives of the most notorious offenders, that have suffered from the year 1700, to the present time.

In all the Works of this nature, that we have seen the materials are so jumbled together, without order or method, that the readers are disgusted, rather than entertained or instructed. Instead, therefore, of repeating

repeating the dull formal repetitions used on trials, we have thrown the whole into the form of a narrative ; and at the end of each life, deduced such practical inferences, as cannot fail to make a lasting impression on the mind of our readers. Every difficult term is likewise explained, without interrupting the narrative ; and as great pains have been taken to make this Work acceptable to the Public, the Author doubts not but he shall receive their warmest approbation.

This entire new Work is therefore offered not only as an object of curiosity and entertainment, but as a Publication of real and substantial use, to guard the mind (by striking reflections on the conduct of those unhappy Wretches who have fallen sacrifices to the injured laws of their country) from the allurements of Vice, and the paths that lead to destruction.

The Copper-plates to this Work will be designed and engraved by the most celebrated artists, and finished in such a taste, as to convey the most striking idea of the manner in which the various crimes have been perpetrated.

It is extremely natural to wish for the approbation of the Public ; but, however, anxious we may be for that, yet we desire it no further than the merits of this performance shall intitle us.

Conscious that nothing has been neglected by the authors, they doubt not but those of discernment and sensibility, will give it the preference to all the books on the same subject ever yet offered to the public, for whose benefit it was undertaken ; and parents and guardians will find it one of the most useful books to be put into the hands of the rising generation, before their tender minds have been led astray from the practice of virtue.

It will also become extremely useful for families, and be a fund of entertainment, as well as instruction

tion for those who have a few leisure hours to spend in the evening, or such as go on long voyages to sea. Those who live in the country, and at a distance from large towns, will find it very useful, as a work of entertainment; and although the greatest number of crimes are generally committed near the metropolis, yet the reader will see that we have given the lives of the most notorious offenders, throughout every part of England, Wales and Scotland, with as many in Ireland, as we could procure authentic accounts of, so that the work is calculated for the use and advantage of all our fellow subjects.

W. JACKSON.

The following COPPER-PLATES, (among many others) are already engraved for this Work.

Representation of an execution opposite the New Gaol of Newgate.

The Recorder making his Report of Prisoners under Sentence of Death to the King.

Representation of A new Plan of Prisoners under Sentence of Death to the King.

An Execution at Kennington Common.

View of the County Gaol Borough Ditto of Kingiton Alize House.

View of the New House of Correction Cold Bath Fields.

View of the Cols Press Yard. &c. in Newgate.

Also the New Compter Giltspur Street, &c. &c.

Representation of A new Plan proposed to the Legislature for the punishment of Highwaymen.

An excellent View of the Justitia Hulk, and the Convicts at Work, near Woolwich.

An exact View of the new Prison Clerkenwell.

Ditto of Tothill-fields Bridewell, Westminster.

The Convicts taking Water previous to their transportation to Botany Bay.

A Criminal (condemned for High Treason) drawn on a Sledge to Tyburn.

The prisoners stopping in St. John's Lane, at the Baptist-head Public House, on the Day of Removal from the New Prison to Newgate.

View of the Public Office in Bow-

Street, and Prisoners under Examination.

Representations of the Skeletons in Surgeons Hall in the Old Bailey.

Striking Display of the Mode of hanging Pirates at Execution Dock.

View of the Machine called the Maiden, formerly used at Edinburgh; an instrument similar to the French Guillotine.

John Smith cut down at Tyburn, in Consequence of a R priev which came five Minutes after he had been turned off.

The Manner of whipping Delinquents at the New whipping Post, in the Sessions House Yard, Old Bailey.

Beautiful Prospect of the New Sessions House.

Ditto of the New Gaol of Newgate.

The Bell-man of St. Sepulchre's, speaking the admonitory Words to the Malefactors going to Execution.

The Punishment of Pressure, formerly inflicted on those who refused pleading to Indictments.

View of Houslow Heath, with the Gibbets and men hanging in Chains.

The Manner of Branding or Burning in the Hand, as now practised at the Old Bailey.

The Body of a Murderer exposed in the Theatre of Surgeon's Hall.

Jack Ketch arrested, and taken into Custody, when attending a Malefactor to Execution.

Manner of executing Women, convicted of petit-Treason.



The Recorder making the Report of the capital Convicts
to His Majesty in Council .

New Newgate Calendar;

O R,

VILLANY DISPLAYED

IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

FROM THE YEAR 1700 TO THE PRESENT TIME;

Embellished with a Set of Entire New Copper Plates.

REMARKS PRELIMINARY.

IT being the professed intention of the Compiler of this Work to exert his utmost endeavours to unite *entertainment* and *improvement*, he thinks it absolutely necessary to apprise the reader that he does not mean to swell his volumes with recitals of accounts of trials, convictions, &c. that have nothing interesting to recommend them; on the contrary, it is his intention to insert in this *New Collection* such *narratives* only as become *valuable* from the *singular circumstances* with which they were attended; and not a single event of this nature, since the commencement of the present century, shall remain unrecorded.

It being required by the laws of our country, "that the truth, the *whole* truth, and nothing but "the truth," should be told, the occasional deviations, therefore, in respect to the brevity of the language, must, in some instances, be excusable. It is to be remembered that the expressions are not the Compilers; and seeing that it behoves

reporters as much as witnesses to adhere to the truth; the repetition of them is therefore unavoidable. In like manner the Compiler may be obliged (unwilling as he is) to give the *cant phrases* of thieves; for in many instances, if the witnesses' depositions be not faithfully recorded, the narrative may be so imperfect, as to be scarcely intelligible. The utility of being so exact is the best apology for reviving any vulgar expressions, for thereby the honest and unwary are put upon their guard, and apprized of all the secret craft of those low-lived sons of depredation; while youth is likewise forewarned of those destructive pursuits, the end of which is in general fatal and ignominious!

The Compiler of this *New* work returns his sincerest thanks to those gentlemen who have communicated either printed or manuscript *trials* and *narratives*, which may tend to the perfection of his plan; and he assures his worthy contributors that their favours have not been conferred on one ungrateful. Every prudent use shall be made of their communications, it being presumed that the public will reap an advantage, from what was intended as a private compliment.

Circumstantial Account of the Trials, Declarations, and Executions of MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN BERGHEN, *and* GERARD DROMELIUS, *in* East Smithfield, *for the Murder of* OLIVER NORRIS.

THE wretched subjects of this narrative were natives of Holland, but having settled in England, Michael Van Berghen and his wife

wife kept a public-house near East-Smithfield, and Dromelius acted as their servant.

One Norris, a country gentleman, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, went into the house of Van-Berghen, about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid-servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so, her mistress whispered her; and bid her return in a little time, and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse containing a sum of money: whereupon he returned, and charged Van-Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he refused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper.

At this time Dromelius entered the room, and treating Mr. Norris in a very cavalier manner; the latter resented the insult, till a perfect quarrel ensued. At this juncture Van-Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's skull, and in the mean time Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body; Mrs. Van-Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act.

When Mr. Norris was dead, they stripped him of his coat, waistcoat, hat, wig, &c. and then Van-Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames: and in the mean time Mrs.

Van-Berghen washed the blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The cloaths which had been stripped from the deceased were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland.

The next morning at low water, the body of a gentleman was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed; but not succeeding in this, some of them, who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had seen Van-Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found; and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van-Berghen's house.

Upon this the house was searched; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room which appeared to have been lately mopped. Enquiry was made after Dromelius; but Van-Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their service: on which they were taken into custody, with the servant-maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this juncture the waterman who had carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knew him very well, appeared and was likewise taken into custody.

On the trial all the circumstances above mentioned appeared so striking to the jury, that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty, and accordingly

accordingly they received sentence of death. The prisoners were tried by a jury of half Englishmen and half foreigners ; a generous and candid mode of proceeding peculiar to the criminal courts of this country.

Dromelius after condemnation, and a short time before the day of execution, assured the ordinary of Newgate that the murder was committed by himself, and was preceded and followed by these circumstances : That Mr. Norris being very much in liquor, and desirous of going to his inn, Mr Van Berghen directed him to attend him thither ; that soon after they left the house, Norris went into a broken building to ease himself ; where using opprobrious language to Dromelius, and attempting to draw his sword, he wrested it from his hand, and stabbed him with it in several places ; that this being done, Norris groaned very much ; and Dromelius hearing a watchman coming, and fearing a discovery, drew a knife, cut his throat, and thereby put an end to his life. In answer to this it was said, that the story was altogether improbable ; for if Mr. Norris had been killed in the manner above mentioned, some blood would have been found on the spot, and there would have been holes in his cloaths from the stabbing ; neither of which was the case. Still, however, Dromelius persisted in his declaration, with a view to save the life of his mistress, with whom he was thought to have had a criminal connection ; and indeed he confessed that he had been too familiar with this woman.

Mr. and Mrs. Van-Berghen were attended at the place of execution by some divines of their own country, as well as English clergymen ; and desired the prayers of them all. Mr. Van-Berghen, unable to speak intelligibly in English,

con-

conversed in Latin ; a circumstance from which it may be inferred that he had been educated in a stile superior to the rank of life which he had lately held. He said that the murder was not committed in his house, and that he knew no more of it, than that Dromelius came to him, while he lay in bed, informed him that he had wounded the gentleman, and begged him to aid his escape ; but that when he knew Mr. Norris was murdered, he offered money to some persons to pursue the murderer ; but this circumstance, which might have been favourable to him, was not proved on his trial.

Mrs. Van-Berghen also solemnly declared that she knew nothing of the murder till after it was perpetrated, which was not in their house ; that Dromelius coming into the chamber, and saying he had murdered the gentleman, she went for the hamper to hold the bloody cloaths, and assisted Dromelius in his escape, a circumstance which would not be deemed criminal in her country. This was, however, an artful plea : for, in Holland, accessaries before or after the fact are accounted as principals.

Dromelius, when at the place of execution, persisted in his former tale ; but desired the prayers of the surrounding multitude, whom he warned to beware of the indulgence of violent passions, to which he then fell an untimely sacrifice.

These criminals were executed near the Hartshorn brew-house, East-Smithfield, being the nearest convenient spot to the place where the murder was committed, on the tenth of July, in the year 1700. The men were hung in chains between Bow and Mile-end ; but the woman was buried.

From the above narrative an important lesson may be learnt, particularly by our country readers.

Mr.

Mr. Norris was a country gentleman; the house kept by Van-Berghen was, at the best, of very doubtful fame. Country gentlemen, when called to London on business, should be particularly cautious never to enter such a house. If this unhappy gentleman had gone only where business called him, he might have escaped the fatal catastrophe that befel him, and have long lived to bless his family and friends, and be a credit to his country and self.

In bringing to light the murder above mentioned, the intervention of Providence is obvious. Every possible care was taken to conceal it, yet blood was found in the room where the murder was committed; and the thoughtlessness of Dromelius, respecting the waterman, contributed to lead to a ready discovery of the fact. Nothing is hid from the all-seeing eye of God! Let the righteous justice executed on the malefactors above mentioned impress on the minds of all our readers the force of the sixth commandment.—

“Thou shalt do no MURDER

Complete Narrative of the Life, Trial, and Execution of JOHN SIMPSON, alias JOHN HOLLIDAY, who was hanged at Tyburn for Burglary,

JOHN SIMSON was not so much distinguished by any particular circumstance that attended the crime of which he was convicted, as by the peculiarities of his former life, which are well worthy the perusal of the reader.

Most

The chief part of this narrative is taken from his own declarations while under sentence of death, and the rest from authentic papers. During a great part of the war in the reign of king William he was a soldier in Flanders, where he used to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers ; and once when the army lay before Mons, and his majesty commanded in person, Simpson happened to be one of those who were selected to guard the royal tent. On an evening when the king, accompanied by the earl (afterwards duke) of Marlborough, and lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the situation of the army, Simpson, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himself, went into his majesty's tent, and stole about a thousand pounds. It was some days before this money was missed, and when the robbery was discovered Simpson escaped all suspicion. He said he had committed more robberies than he could possibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a house-breaker.

He committed numerous robberies in Flanders, as well as in England, and he affirmed that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice shut up within a fortnight to prevent his escape, and that when he was taken his arms, legs, back, and neck were secured with irons ; in which condition he was carried through the streets, that he might be seen by the crowd.

Simpson, and two of his companions, used frequently to stop and rob the Roman Catholics at five o'clock in the morning, as they were going to mass ; he repeatedly broke into the churches of Brussels, Mechlin and Antwerp, and stole the silver plate from the altar.

This

This offender further acknowledged, that having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned, for the fact, by a court-martial of officers, and sentenced to be executed on the following day, in sight of the army, which was to be drawn up to see the execution. During the night, however, he found means to escape, and took refuge in the church of St. Peter, in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of sanctuary, he applied to the priests, who made interest with prince Eugene; and their joint intercession with king William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he was permitted immediately to join the army.

One would imagine that the obligations he had to those priests would have inspired him with sentiments of gratitude; but this was far from being the case, that, in a few days after he had obtained his pardon, he broke into the church, and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do, as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church, and knew where the plate was deposited. He was apprehended on suspicion of this sacrilege; for as a crime of this kind is seldom committed by the natives of the country, it was conjectured that it must have been perpetrated by some one, at least, of the soldiers; and information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheldt, for Middleburgh, on the day succeeding the robbery, and that Simpson had been seen in company with these Jews, this occasioned his being taken into custody; but as no proof arose that he had sold any plate to these men, it was thought necessary to dismiss him.

The army being ordered to England, and the regiment reduced, in consequence of the peace of Ryswick, in the year 1697, Simpson was among those who were discharged, and with him were likewise dismissed some of those who had been concerned with him in his depredations in Flanders.

There is no wonder that those who had associated together abroad should join to perpetrate acts of villany in their native country; and accordingly, we find that Simpson and his companions were concerned in a great number of robberies on the roads near London, Simpson being chosen as the leader of the gang, and dignified by the title of captain. When they were unsuccessful on the highway, they had recourse to house-breaking: and they continued these practices for about three years, during which period several of Simpson's companions were apprehended, tried, convicted, and executed.

Soon after Simpson himself was taken into custody, and indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of July, 1700, for breaking open the dwelling-house of Elizabeth Gawden, and stealing two feather-beds, and other articles. To this indictment he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death. He declared that he had never murdered any person in consequence of his robberies; but that he had killed four or five men in private quarrels. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of July, 1700, having first declared that his real name was John Holliday, and that he had broken out of Newgate about Christmas preceding the last apprehension.

The melancholy end of this malefactor presents a striking lesson of caution to two kinds of people,

people, viz. those of his own rank who are out of the army, and those that are in. The former will see that in this instance, as in every other, the paths of vice lead to destruction: the latter will, we trust, be taught to learn obedience to their superiors; for if this offender had been properly impressed with a sense of that duty, the robbing of his king could never have entered his imagination. The crime of sacrilege, of which he was repeatedly guilty, has been held in universal abhorrence by all civilized nations, and is justly punished in the severest manner. Many years have now elapsed since his offences brought him to a deplorable end; but it is to be hoped that the distance of time will not weaken the impression: since what was worthy of regard, and proper to enforce serious ideas, at the beginning of this century, cannot be less so at the present moment. Some good end may be answered, some good resolution formed, by reading any single trial in these volumes; and we trust that those who shall peruse them all, will find their hearts amended while their minds are entertained, and that they will become wiser and better while they seek instructions from the calamities of others.

Full Account of the Life, Intrigues, Crimes, &c. of
 GEORGE CADDELL, *who was executed at*
Stafford, for the Murder of ELIZABETH PRICE,
his Mistress.

GEORGE CADDELL was a native of the town of Broomsgrove in Worcestershire, at which place he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired

to London, where he walked several of the hospitals, to give him an insight into the art of surgery.

Having obtained a tolerable proficiency herein, he retired from London, and went to Worcester, where he lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon of that city; and in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her first child.

After this melancholy event he went to reside at Litchfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here, he courted the daughter of that gentleman, to whom he would probably have been soon married, but for the commission of the following crime which cost him his life.

A young lady named Elizabeth Price, who had been debauched by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence; and, after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life.

This young lady now informed Caddell that a pregnancy was the consequence of their connections; and repeatedly urged him to marry her, to prevent her being a second time disgraced in the eyes of the public.

Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time; at last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean; on which she became

came more importunate than ever, and threatened that if he refused his consent to wed her, she would put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them.

It was on this unhappy occasion that Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss Price; for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying her who had granted the last favour to at least one other man, as well as himself.

This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust the plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price thus deluded now thought the wound in her reputation would be healed, and on the following day she met him on the road leading towards Burton upon Trent, at a house known by the sign of the Nag's Head.

Having accompanied her supposed lover into the fields, and walked about till towards evening, they then sat down under a hedge, where having spent some time in conversation, he pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape; but not before he had waited till she was dead,

Caddell, however, in the distraction of his mind, left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments. When he came home it was observed that he appeared exceedingly confused; though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not even be guessed at. But on the following morning Miss Price being found murdered in the field,

field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the instruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: whereupon he was taken into custody, and committed to the jail of Stafford; and being soon afterwards tried, he was found guilty, condemned, and executed, at Stafford, on the 21st of July, 1700.

There is no particular account of the behaviour of this malefactor while under sentence of death, or at the place of execution; yet his fate will afford an instructive lesson to youth. Let no young man who has connections of any kind with one woman, think of paying his addresses to another. There can be no such thing as honourable courtship, while dishonourable love subsists. Mr. Caddell might have lived a credit to himself, and an ornament to his profession, if he had not held a criminal connection with Miss Price. Her fate ought to impress on the minds of our female readers the importance of modest reserve to a woman. We would not be severe on the failings of the sex; but we cannot help observing, that a woman, who has fallen a sacrifice to the arts of one man, should be very cautious in yielding to the addresses of another. One false step may be recovered; but the progress of vice is a down-hill road; and the farther we depart from the paths of virtue, still the faster we run. On the contrary, the ways of virtue are pleasant, "and all her paths are paths of peace." From this story likewise the young officers of our army and navy may learn an useful lesson; for if Miss Price had not been debauched by one of that
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profession, the fatal catastrophe above mentioned had never happened.

A full and particular Account of the Life, Amours, Behaviour, and Execution of GEORGE GRIFFITHS, who suffered at Tyburn, for privately stealing from his Master, whose Daughter he endeavoured to deceive.

MR. GRIFFITHS was the son of an apothecary of extensive practice at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk: After receiving the rudiments of his education at the grammar school of the town above mentioned, he was articled as a clerk to an attorney of eminence in London, and soon became distinguished for his attention to, and knowledge of business. His father dying during his clerkship, and having a large family, left his son George only about an hundred pounds.

This young man as soon as his clerkship was expired, contracted with his master to manage his business for a certain annual stipend: and he discharged his duty for a considerable time with great regularity; but unhappily becoming acquainted with some young lawyers who possessed more money than discretion, he soon spent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and also became indebted to several of his master's employers.

During great part of Griffiths's servitude, the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-school at Windsor for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requested
that

that she would take his domestic affairs under her own management.

This old gentleman being frequently about from home, the business of the office was committed, to the care of Mr. Griffiths; and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company he spent all those evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was that their acquaintance ripened into esteem; their esteem into love. The reciprocal declaration soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

Some short time after this attachment, Griffiths was under the necessity of attending his master on the Norfolk circuit, and while he was in the country he held a constant correspondence with the young lady; but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had passed, and had not formed the least idea that his daughter had any kind of connection with his clerk; but at length the circumstance of the affair transpired in the following manner.

The daughter having gone to Windsor for a few days, on a visit to her former acquaintance, continued to correspond with Mr. Griffiths. On a particular day when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of consequence, carried it to the master, at an adjacent coffee-house. It is impossible that any language should express the surprize of the old gentleman, when he saw the name of his daughter subscribed to a letter, in which she acknowledged herself as the future wife of the clerk.

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The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune ; but he soon found that he had been master of sufficient art, to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was possessed of considerable property. Hereupon he represented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct ; in answer to which she said that Mr. Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumstance from her father. However, it was not long before a discovery was made, which represented Mr. Griffith's situation in a light equally new and contemptible.

His master for a considerable time past had acted as the solicitor in a capital cause depending in Chancery ; but the determination respecting it had been put off, on account of lord Sommers being removed from the office of chancellor, and the great seal given in commission to Sir Nathan Wright. The solicitor had received immense sums while the cause was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk : but the latter, pressed for cash to supply his extravagance, purloined some of this money. At length the cause was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account with his master for the money in his hands.

Alarmed at this sudden demand, he knew not what course to take. He was already considerably indebted to different people, and had not a friend to whom he could apply for as much money as was deficient in his accounts : but being driven to the utmost necessity, he came to the resolution of breaking open his master's bureau, which he did while the family were asleep, and stole a considerable sum of money ; but as nothing else but money was stolen, Griffiths would very probably

have escaped suspicion, had he not been tempted to a repetition of his crime.

At this time the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and during their residence at that place of amusement, Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his master's bureau, from whence he again took money to a considerable amount. On the master's return, he missed this sum; but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked: but hereupon he deposited his jewels in the bureau, but locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady still continued; and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which (happily for her) brought their connection to a period.

Griffiths being (as already observed) possessed of a key that would open his master's bureau, and disposed to go out and spend a cheerful evening with his old associates now during their absence, opened the drawer, but was greatly disappointed in not meeting with the money that was usually left there; finding, however, jewels in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller and sold for twelve pounds; and then went to spend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and casually looking into his drawer, found the ring was gone; and being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched; but no discovery was made.

Griffiths did not return till a late hour, and on the following day his employer told him what had happened, and requested that he would go to the several jewelers' shops, and make enquiry for the lost ring. Griffiths pretended an obedience

ence, and when he returned, acquainted his master that all his enquiries respecting it had been ineffectual.

However, a discovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery was made in the following singular manner. The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the same coffee-house with the gentleman who had lost it, and was intimately acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller, having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, and therefore concluded that it had been obtained in an illegal manner. Being a man who was much above the idea of having his integrity suspected, he related the particulars of his purchase at the coffee-house, which the person who had lost the ring hearing, desired to have a sight of it; and on the first inspection, knew it to be that which he had lost.

The person of Griffiths was now so exactly described by the jeweller, that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was desired to go to the chambers with a constable, and take him into custody, if he appeared to be the man who had sold the ring. As this was really the case, he was carried before a justice of the peace, and accused of the crime, which he immediately confessed, and likewise that he had robbed his master of money, in the manner we have already related.

Griffiths in consequence hereof was committed to Newgate, and being arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was passed on him accordingly.

As in his situation it was natural to suppose
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that he would attempt to correspond with the young lady to whom he had aspired as a wife, a proper person was employed by her father to intercept her letters : a service that was performed with such care, that, not one reached her hands, though a considerable number were written.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope from the intervention of the royal mercy, and consequently that all the views with which he had flattered himself in wedlock were vanished, he began seriously to prepare himself for that state in which persons “ neither marry, nor are given in marriage.” He very justly attributed his misfortunes to the associating with persons who were his superiors in point of circumstances, and the making an appearance which he was unable to support, in order to secure the object of his wishes.

Many lessons of useful instruction may be learnt from the preceding melancholy narrative. Among the number of our young gentlemen who are sent to the inns of court, some are of considerable fortune ; while others have very scanty stipends ; for it is the ambition of too many parents to place their children in stations in which they cannot support them with the requisite degree of credit till they are enabled to provide for themselves ; and it is possible that this may be the source of many calamities. The wish to provide in a proper manner for our children, is as laudable as it is natural : but many a youth owes his ruin to his being placed in a situation above his reasonable views or expectations.

When it happens that a young gentleman, whose circumstances are rather contracted, is sent to one of our inns of court ; instead of frequent-
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ing play-houses and taverns with those of more liberal fortune, he should study with the utmost assiduity the reverend sages of the law, by which, in a few years, he may render himself superior to those who, at the present moment, may look down on him with a degree of contempt.

In respect to the unhappy subject of this narrative, we have only to remark, that a rigid perseverance in the paths of honour might have finally procured him the consummation of his wishes. On a presumption that he was enamoured of his master's daughter, the ready way to have obtained her would have been to have sought the approbation of her father: and, as he appears to have been much confided in by the old gentleman, there seems to be little doubt but that modest perseverance would have ensured his success: besides, his guilt was increased in proportion to the confidence that his master reposed in him.

Mr. Griffiths was executed at Tyburn, on the first of August, 1700.

Reflecting on his fate severe,
 We own that love has borne its part;
 A tale like this must draw a tear
 From every tender, feeling heart.

Particulars of the Life, Atheism, and remarkable Execution of the REV. THOMAS HUNTER, in Edinburgh, for the Murder of two of his young Pupils.

THIS atrocious offender was born in the county of Fife, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University of St. Andrew

Andrew for education. When young Hunter had acquired a good share of classical learning, he was admitted to the degree of master of arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success.

Several of the younger clergymen in Scotland act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years, in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, which is a rank equal to that of alderman of London.

Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons; and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius, and great goodness of heart.

But it happened that a connection took place between Hunter and the young woman above-mentioned, which soon increased to a criminal degree of familiarity; however the correspondence between them was maintained for a considerable time, during which the family was totally ignorant of the affair.

These lovers had gone on undetected so long, that they grew daily less cautious than at the commencement of their amour; and on a particular day, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit,

visit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as usual: but having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse.

No suspicion was entertained that the children would mention to their parents what had happened; the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age: so that the guilty lovers had not the least idea that a discovery would ensue; but when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had happened. Hereupon the female servant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again.

Hunter from this period entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention; but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution; which he at length in a great degree effected, as will be seen hereafter.

Whenever it was a fine day, he was accustomed to walk in the fields with his pupils for an hour before dinner; and in these excursions the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal fact, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat very near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city,
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he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Hunter was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that only the little girl should attend them.

By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held his resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children, at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies, and gathering wild flowers.

Having sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him, and having reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, he said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him: but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his pen-knife; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first.

These horrid murders were committed within half a mile of the castle of Edinburgh; and as the deeds were perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed, if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody.

At the time of the murder, it happened that a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh;



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THOS. HUNTER, a Clergyman, murdering his two PUPILS
near Edinburgh.

burgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed. Alarmed by the incident, the gentleman called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead: but by this time the murderer had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued, came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river: and his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid deed that had been perpetrated by this wicked man.

Language is too weak to describe the effects resulting from the communication of this dreadful news: the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the mother's grief, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted.

Mr. Hunter being now in custody, it is requisite that we give an account of the proceedings against him, and of the punishment that followed his offence.

According to an old Scottish law it was decreed, that "if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his cloaths, he should be prosecuted in the sheriff's court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact." It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but the offender in question had been guilty of crimes of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law.

The prisoner was, therefore, committed to gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and on the following day the sheriff issued his precept for

the jury to meet: and, in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed, the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his sons.

The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that “on the following day he should be executed on a gibbet erected for that purpose on the spot where he had committed the murders: but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet, by a rope, and, when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck through his hand, which should be advanced over his head, and fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet.”

Mr. Hunter was executed, in strict conformity to the above sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700. But Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff, that the body might be removed to a more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the high way, through which he frequently passed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occasion that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton.

It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution. Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration: “There is no God—I do not believe there is any—or if there is, I hold him in defiance.”

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Some serious and important reflections will naturally occur to the mind on perusing the above melancholy narrative. Mr. Hunter was educated in a manner greatly superior to the vulgar; and he was of a profession that ought to have set an example of virtue, instead of a pattern of vice: yet neither his education nor profession could actuate as preventive remedies against a crime the most abhorrent to all the feelings of humanity.

Hunter's first offence, great as it was, could be considered as no other than a prologue to the dismal tragedy that ensued: a tragedy that was attended with almost every possible circumstance of aggravation; for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon had done nothing to him that could tempt him to any thoughts of revenge; and the children were too young to have offended him; even in intention; they simply mentioned to their parents a circumstance, that to them appeared somewhat extraordinary; and which, Mr. Hunter's character and situation considered, was indeed of a very extraordinary nature: yet, in revenge of the supposed affront, did he resolve to embrace his hands in the blood of innocents who never offended.

When we consider the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, in discharging the young woman who was guilty of a violation of the laws of decency; and retaining in their family the principal offender, we must own that their partiality was ill founded; this, however, must be ascribed to the veneration in which clergymen are universally held, and the particular regard that was shewn towards them in Scotland at the commencement of the present century. Still, however, it is an aggravation of Hunter's crime, who ought to have been grateful in proportion as he was favoured.

It is a shocking part of Hunter's story, that he who was looked upon as a minister, was one of a society of abandoned young fellows, who occasionally assembled to ridicule the scriptures, and make a mockery of the being and attributes of God! Is it then to be wondered that this wretch fell an example of the exemplary justice of Divine Providence? Perhaps a fate no less dreadful attended many of his companions; but as their histories have not reached our hands, we can only judge of the consequences by the enormities of their crimes.

There is something so indescribably shocking in denying the existence of that God "in whom we live, move, and have our being," that it is amazing any man can be an atheist, who feels that he did not create himself.

From this sad tale be mortals taught
The wond'rous pow'r of God,
And, fill'd with deep repentance, bow
Beneath his vengeful rod!

Narrative of the Life, and Execution of JOHN COWLAND, Gentleman, at Tyburn, for the Murder of Sir ANDREW SLANNING, Baronet.

NOTWITHSTANDING the particulars of this affair are short, they are interesting. Sir Andrew Slanning having made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury Lane play-house, retired with her as soon as the play was ended, and was followed by Mr. Cowland and some other gentlemen. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife.

wife. Cowland, knowing that Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides : but some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill consequence happened.

They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose tavern ; and Captain Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that his mediation was attended with success ; but, as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who finding himself wounded, cried out “ murder.”

One of Lord Warwick’s servants now, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew ; which being granted, he jumped down the stairs, and endeavoured to make his escape ; but being pursued he was easily re-taken.

Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of the peace, who committed him ; and on the 5th of December, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey, on three indictments, the first at the common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the coroner’s inquest for the murder.

Every fact above mentioned was fully proved on the trial ; and among other things it was deposed, that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000l a year, and his family became extinct by his death, and that he had been a gentleman of great good-nature, and by no means disposed to animosity.

Sentence

Sentence of death was now passed on Mr. Cowland being found guilty on the clearest evidence, and though great interest was made to obtain a pardon for him, he was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of December, 1700.

From the moment of his imprisonment to the day of his death, his behaviour was truly contrite and penitent; he professed the most unfeigned sorrow for all his sins, and gave the following account of himself: That he was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith. That in the early part of his life he was sober and religious, studying the scriptures, giving a regular attendance on divine worship, and devoutly reflecting on his duty towards God; but that abandoning this course of life, he became an easy prey to his own intemperate passions, and proceeded from one degree of vice to another, till at length he committed the horrid crime for which he was justly doomed to fall a sacrifice to the violated laws of God and his country.

On a retrospect of the above-written melancholy narrative, some reflections will occur that, if properly attended to, may be of singular use to the reader. The dispute which cost Sir Andrew Slanning his life, took its rise from his having associated himself with a woman of light character, with whom Cowland thought he had as much right to make free as the baronet; but Sir Andrew was originally to blame; for as he was a married man, there was a greater impropriety in the connection he had formed: this, however, was no kind of justification of the conduct of Cowland, who could have no business to interfere; and his crime is greatly enhanced by his having committed the murder after an apparent reconciliation had taken place. To sum up our
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observations in a few words ; from this sad tale let married men be taught the danger that may ensue from the slightest criminal connection : and let young gentlemen learn to govern and moderate their passions : so may all parties live, an honour to themselves, and a credit to their families and friends.

Circumstantial Account of the Life, Trial, Piracies, and Execution of Captain JOHN KIDD, who was hanged at Execution Dock.

THE case of Captain Kidd, while in agitation, engaged the attention of the public in a very eminent degree, though the man himself was one of the most contemptible of the human race. The town of Greenock in Scotland gave birth to Captain Kidd, who was bred to the sea, and having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. He was neither remarkable for the excess of his courage, nor for his want of it. In a word, his ruling passion appeared to be avarice, and to this was owing his connection with the pirates.

When Kidd was in company with these abandoned people he used to converse and act as they did ; yet at other times he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be extirpate these people, and prevent their making future depredations.

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His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. Before we enter into farther particulars respecting this man, it will be proper to say something of the situation of public affairs, previous to, and at the time he began to grow conspicuous.

For years past great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West-Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North-America, on account of the advantage that could be made by the purchase of effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of King William the Third, he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New-York on the earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman of distinguished character and abilities.

As soon as his Majesty had conferred this honour on lord Bellamont, his lordship began to consider of the most effectual method to redress the evils complained of, and he represented to colonel Levingston, a gentleman who had great property in New-York, that some proper steps should be taken to obviate the evils so long complained of. Just at this juncture Captain Kidd was arrived from New-York, in a sloop of his own: him, therefore, the colonel mentioned to lord Bellamont, as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted at.

This plan met with the fullest approbation of his lordship, who knowing how desirous the king
was

was that this nest of pirates should be destroyed, mentioned the affair to his majesty, who greatly applauded the design, and recommended it to the notice of the board of admiralty. The commissioners likewise approved it; but such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs, that, though the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution.

The transactions on this head being imparted to colonel Levingston, he made an application to lord Bellamont, and informed him, that, as the affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expence, notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it.

Lord Bellamont approved of this project; but it was attended with considerable difficulty: at length, however, the lord chancellor Somers, the duke of Shrewsbury, the earl of Romney, the earl of Oxford, and some other persons, with colonel Levingston, and captain Kidd, agreed to raise 6000*l* for the expence of the voyage; and the colonel and captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking.

This plan was so highly approved of by king William, who thought it would produce such great advantages to his subjects, that he promised to contribute to its success; and therefore a reserve was agreed to be made of a tenth part of the effects seized from the pirates, for the use of his majesty: but after the contract was concluded, the king could not spare his share of the money, and therefore the whole was advanced by the above-mentioned persons.

Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission in the usual form was granted to captain Kidd, to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice; but there was no special clause or proviso to restrain his conduct, or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to lord Bellamont, and another gentleman presented him to lord Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them; and so ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private instruction how to act, but received his sailing orders from lord Bellamont, the purport of which was, that he should act agreeable to the letter of his commission.

Accordingly a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the Adventure Galley: and in this captain Kidd sailed for New York, towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made a prize of a French ship. From New-York he sailed to the Madeira islands, thence to Bonavisto and St. Jago, and from this last place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea, but not being successful in those latitudes, he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, which he carried to Madagascar, and disposed of there.

Having sold his prize, he again put to sea, and at the expiration of five weeks took the *Quedah Merchant*, a ship of above four hundred tons burthen, the master of which was an Englishman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner, but the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number.

He carried this ship to St. Mary's, near Madagascar, where he burnt the Adventure galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah Merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself. They then went on board the last mentioned ship, and sailed for the West-Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West-India islands knew that Kidd was a pirate; but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's, and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto-Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curacoa. He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah Merchant with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St. Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Mocha Merchant, an East-India ship, which had just then commenced pirate.

Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then steered for Boston in New England. In the interim, Bolton sold the Quedah Merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed as a passenger in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what happened to lord Bellamont, then the resident governor.

Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized by order of his lordship; when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the Quedah Merchant was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy.

Upon this the earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship might be sent for Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship Rochester was accordingly sent to bring him to England; but this vessel happening to be disabled, was obliged to return; a circumstance which greatly increased a public clamour which had for some time subsisted respecting this affair.

It is not to be doubted, but this clamour took its rise from party prejudice; yet it was carried to such a height, that the members of parliament for several places were instructed to move the house for an enquiry into the affair; and accordingly it was moved in the house of commons, that "The letters patent, granted to the
" earl of Bellamont and others, respecting the
" goods taken from pirates, were dishonourable
" to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an
" invasion of property, and destructive to commerce." Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of lord Somers and the earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even insinuated that the earl of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders.

Another motion was accordingly made in the house of commons, to address his majesty, that
" Kidd might not be tried till the next session of
" parliament, and that the earl of Bellamont
" might be directed to send home all examinations and other papers relative to the affair." This motion was carried, and the king complied with the request, which was made.

As soon as Kidd arrived in England, he was sent for and examined at the bar of the house of commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition : but nothing arose to criminate any of those distinguished persons. Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the house ; on which a member, who had been one of the most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed, “ D—n this fellow, I thought he had
“ been only a knave ; but unfortunately he hap-
“ pens to be a fool likewise.”

Kidd was at length tried at the Old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence : but neither at that time nor afterwards, charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings.

He was hanged at *Execution-Dock* on the 23d day of May, 1701 ; but a circumstance happened at his execution that will be worthy of recital. After he had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke, and he fell to the ground ; but being immediately tied up again, the ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more ; and on this second application, entreated him to make the most careful use of the few farther moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These exhortations appeared to have the wished for effect ; and he was left, professing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

In this manner ended the life of captain Kidd, a man who, if he had entertained a proper regard to the welfare of the public, or even to his own advantage,

vantage, might have become an useful member of society, instead of a disgrace to it. The opportunities he had obtained of acquiring a complete knowledge of the haunts of the pirates, rendered him one of the most proper men in the world to have extirpated this nest of villains; but his own avarice defeated the generous views of some of the greatest and most distinguished men of the age in which he lived. Hence we may learn the destructive nature of avarice, which generally counteracts all its own purposes. Captain Kidd might have acquired a fortune, and rendered material service to his country, in a point the most essential to its interests; but he appeared to be dead to all those generous sensations which do honour to humanity; and materially injured his country, while he was bringing final disgrace on himself.

The history of this wretched malefactor will effectually impress on the mind of the reader the truth of the old observation, that "Honesty is the best policy."

Henceforth let honour's path be trod,
Nor villains seek in vain
To mock the sacred laws of God,
And give their neighbours pain.

Account of the Life, Execution, &c. of DARBY MULLINS who suffered death at Execution-Dock with Captain Kidd for Piracy.

DARBY MULLINS, the unfortunate subject of this short narrative, was born in a village in the north of Ireland, about sixteen miles from Londonderry.

He resided with his father, and followed the business of husbandry, till he was about eighteen years

years of age, when the old man died, and the young one went to Dublin; but he had not been long there before he was enticed to go to the West-Indies, where he was sold to a planter, with whom he resided four years.

The above-mentioned term being expired, he became his own master, and thereupon followed the business of a waterman; by this he saved money enough to purchase a small vessel, in which he traded from one island to another, till the time of the dreadful earthquake at Jamaica, in the year 1691, from the effects whereof he was preserved in a most miraculous manner.

Some short time after this he built himself a house at Kingston, and, having now a wife and family, he opened his new habitation as a punch-house, which, in general, is a very profitable business in that island; but it did not prove so to Mullins, who thereupon took his passage to New-York, where he resided two years, and then sailed to the Madeiras, where he remained only three weeks. On his return to New-York he buried his wife, and finding himself not in circumstances to keep house any longer, he purchased a boat of twenty tons burthen, in which he carried from one part of the country to another wood for firing.

He laboured for a while in this way with some success; but unhappily falling into company with Kidd, and some of his companions, they persuaded him to engage in their piratical practices: urging that their intention being to rob only the enemies of christianity, the act would be not only lawful but laudable.

In consequence of his fatal compliance, he was tried at the same sessions as Kidd, and being legally convicted, on the 23d of May 1701, suffered death with him at Execution-Dock.

We may learn from the fate of this offender, the sin and danger of quitting an honest employment to engage in a business of a contrary nature. We likewise see the fallacy of those specious pretences by which Mullins was prevailed to embark in one of the vilest species of robbery. He was told that it was no crime to plunder an infidel. If he had reflected but a moment, he must have been convinced that it was equally contrary to the laws of his country, and the spirit of christianity : but, in fact, he did not give himself time to reflect ; being seduced by the bad example of others : so true is the apostolical observation, “ Evil communications corrupt good manners.”

*Account of the Parentage, Life, Execution, &c. of
HERMAN STRODTMAN, who suffered at
Tyburn for the Murder of PETER WOLTER.*

HENRY STRODTMAN, who came of a good family, was born at Revel, in Lissland, about the year 1683. His parents, who were of a religious disposition, gave him a liberal and pious education.

He was sent by his father to school at Lubeck in the year 1694, where he remained till Michaelmas 1698. At this period he went to Hamburg, where he continued some months, and then in company with a young countryman of his, named Peter Wolter, embarked for England : and on their arrival in London, they were both bound apprentices to Messieurs Stein and Lorient, merchants and partners.

Both these young gentlemen lived together in great harmony for a considerable time ; but in the month of August preceding the fatal tragedy of
which

which we are about to recite the particulars, Mr. Dörion was married to the sister of Peter Wolter.

Hereupon the latter began to assume airs of consequence, and behaved with so much insolence to Strodtman, that his pride took the alarm. They had several quarrels, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice; at one time in the counting-house, and at another before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise traduced Strodtman to his masters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-'prentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred against him, and resolved to murder him in some way or other. His first intention was to have poisoned him; and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bed-room, as a remedy for the scurvy: but this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing.

This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree, that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman desired one of the maids to intimate to his masters his inclinations to be sent to the West-Indies; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew so uneasy, and his enmity against his fellow-'prentice increased to such a degree, that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission to his situation, as the most probable method of securing his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice; but determined on the

execution of the fatal plan which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good-Friday Strodtman was sent out on business; but instead of transacting it, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday, to perpetrate the murder; but reflecting that his fellow-'prentice was to receive the sacrament on Easter-Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's supper; wherefore he sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be sent to Chatham on Easter-Monday, and put on board a ship in the royal navy: but while he was at Greenwich he was met by a young-gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messieurs Stein and Dorien, he believed that the story of his being impressed was all invention. Hereupon Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to enquire into the real state of the case: when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Easter-Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London, and slept at the Dolphin-inn, in Bishopsgate-street. On the following day he returned to Greenwich, and continued either at that place or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood till Tuesday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard-street, and returned to Greenwich on the Wednesday.

Coming again to London on the evening of the succeeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich, but going to the house of his masters, he told them that what he had written was true, for that he had been pressed. They gave

no credit to this tale, but told him they had enquired into the affair, and bid him quit their house. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun in Queen-street, London.

Before the preceding Christmas he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his master's house, that he might go in and out at his pleasure. Originally he intended to have made no worse use of this key; but it being still in his possession, he let himself into the house between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the Saturday last mentioned; but hearing the footsteps of some person going up stairs, he concealed himself behind the door in the passage. As soon as the noise arising from this circumstance was over, he went up one pair of stairs to a room adjoining the counting-house, where he used to sleep, and having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle, and put it into his master's dark lanthorn, which he carried up stairs, to an empty room next to that in which Peter Wolter used to lay. Here he continued a short time, when hearing somebody coming up stairs, he put out his candle, and fell asleep soon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock he listened for awhile, and hearing no noise, he imagined that the whole family were fast asleep. Hereupon he descended to the room on the first floor, where the tinder-box lay; and having lighted his candle, he went to the counting-house, and took a sum of money, and several notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they used to beat tobacco, and going up stairs again, he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and advancing to his

bed-side, struck him violently on the head; and though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed, and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he searched his chest of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above eight pounds. He then packed up some linen and woollen cloaths, and going down one pair of stairs, he threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

He then went up stairs again, and having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed in a chair close to the bed curtains, and the other on a chest of drawers, with a view to have set the house on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the house where he had thrown his bundle; and in this place he staid till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen-street, where he shifted his apparel, and went to the Sweedish church in Trinity-Lane. After the worship of the congregation was ended, he heard a bill of thanks read, which his masters had sent, in devout acknowledgement of the narrow escape that themselves and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumstance, Strodtman burst in tears, but he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his emotion from a gentleman who sat in the same pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the house of
Messieurs

Messieurs Stein and Dorien narrowly escaped being burnt the preceding night, by an accident then unknown; but that the destruction was providentially prevented by a Dutch maid smelling the fire and seeing the smoke, so that on her alarming her master, the flames were extinguished by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information, on the outer walks of the Royal-Exchange, in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy: but the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney church, and after service was ended, he walked towards Mile-End, where he saw the two Dutchmen* who had been hung in chains. The sight gave him a shocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected that he might soon become a like horrid spectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he saw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave fresh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a similar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the sight of objects which he would otherwise rather have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from repenting or even being properly sensible of the crime he had committed; for, as he himself said, "his heart did not yet relent for what he had done, and if he had failed of murdering his fellow-'prentice in his bed, he should have destroyed him some other way."

* These must have been Michael Van-Berghen, and his servant Dromelius.

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horse Inn without Cripplegate, to receive cash for a bill of twenty pounds which he had stolen from his masters' house; but the person who was to have paid it being gone out, he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker in Lombard-street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission: but before he left the house the banker told him that a young man, named Green, had been to enquire for him; on which Strodtman said that if Mr. Green returned, he should be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse Inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this answer, he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's in Lombard-street, where his master Stein, with Mr. Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr. Stein asked him if he would go willingly to his house, or be carried thither by porters: and he, replied that he would go of his own accord. When he came there he was asked some questions respecting the atrocious crimes of which he had been guilty; but persisting that he was innocent, he was searched, and the 20l. bill found in his possession. They then enquired where he lodged; to which he answered in Moorfields; whereupon they all
went

went thither together; but the people denied his lodging there at that time.

Mr. Stein, finding him unwilling to speak the truth, told him that if he would make a full discovery, he should be sent abroad, out of the reach of justice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings; on which they went thither in a coach, and finding the bills and other stolen effects Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphry Edwin, who committed him to Newgate, on his own confession.

He was not tried at the first sessions after his commitment, and in the interval that he lay in prison some bad people who were confined there trumped up an idle tale for him to tell when he came to trial, and prevailed on him to plead not guilty; a circumstance which he afterwards sincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were so many corroborative proofs of his guilt, that the jury could not hesitate to convict him, and he received the sentence awarded by law.

While he was under sentence of death, his behaviour was remarkably contrite and penitent; and when the Ordinary of Newgate told him that the warrant for his execution was come down, and that he would suffer in a few days, he said, "The Lord's will be done! I am willing to die, only I beg of God that I may not, (as I deserve) die an eternal death; and that though I die here, for my most heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Christ, live eternally with him in heaven:" to which he added, "God bless the king, and all my honourable judges: they have done me no wrong; but 'tis I have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me a great sinner, else I perish.

At times he seemed to despair, because he feared that his repentance was not equal to his guilt: but then again his mind was occasionally warmed with the hope that his penitance was such as would lead to salvation.

When at the place of execution he acknowledged his crime, for which he professed the sincerest sorrow and repentance: he begged pardon of God for having endeavoured, with presumptuous lies to conceal those crimes, which being punished in this world, his eternal punishment in the next might be avoided. * He died full of contrition, penitence, and hope; and suffered at *Tyburn*, on the 18th of June, 1701; and it was remarked that he kept his hands lifted up for a considerable time after the cart was drawn away.

There are some very remarkable circumstances in the case of Herman Strodtman, which are well worthy of observation: The prudence of the Dutch maid, who, when she observed the agitation of his mind, advised him to bear present evils with resolution, in the hope of future peace. The doctrine inculcated by this honest girl ought not to be despised even by the wisest of men.

Strodtman's resolution not to murder Wolter till he had received the sacrament has something shockingly striking in it. We are at once charmed and amazed at the influence religion has on the mind. A man is determined to commit murder, but will defer the fatal stroke till he thinks the soul of his adversary is properly prepared for eternity! Hence let parents be taught the necessity of impressing the precepts of religion on the minds of their children. Even a man while he retained the resolution of committing deliberate murder could not forget that
there

there is a God to reward the pious, as well as punish the wicked.

Strodtman's master, Stein, going to Chatham, to enquire if he had been really impressed, and finding that he had not, is a good lesson against the sin of lying. Nothing is so easy as the detection of a liar; nothing more scandalous than the being liable to such detection.

Strodtman's going to church repeatedly, before and after the commission of the murder, are very striking circumstances, and combine with those above-mentioned to prove that it is impossible to root from the mind that regard for religion which should be planted in the years of infancy.

His intention to set the house on fire, in order to conceal the robbery and murder, paints his character in the worst light. The incendiary is one of the most culpable of all offenders. It is a great misfortune that persons who are guilty of writing incendiary letters are seldom detected; but it would still be a greater misfortune to this country, if persons of property were to be terrified to a compliance by the threats usually denounced in such letters. Guilt is always cowardly, and seldom carries its own threats into execution. It is, however, to be hoped that the legislature of this country will ordain a law, that incendiaries shall be punished agreeable to the *lex talionis* of the Romans, or the scripture rule, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

By Strodtman's going to receive the money for the bill of twenty pounds, he took the readiest method to convict himself; for he might have been certain that when the bill was missed, payment would be stopped: but thus it happens, in

almost every instance, that villainy defeats its own ends, and proves the possessor to be a fool.

From the whole of this malefactor's case, we may learn, that the direct road to happiness is through the path of integrity; and that the indulgence of violent passions, whatever the provocation may be, is equally inconsistent with the laws of reason, and the doctrines of christianity.

*Particular Account of the Life and Amours of
MARY ADAMS, who was executed at Tyburn,
for privately stealing.*

THIS young woman, who was the daughter of a journeyman shoemaker, was born at Reading, in Berkshire, and, when she was old enough to go to service, went to live with a grocer in that town. As Mary was a girl of vivacity and genteel figure, she soon attracted the regard of the grocer's son, and the consequence of their connection became very conspicuous in a short time.

As soon as it was evident that she was pregnant, she was dismissed from her master's service, on which she immediately made oath that his son was the father of the child thereafter to be born; a circumstance that compelled the old gentleman to support her till after she was brought to bed.

She had not been delivered long, before she went to London, and entered into the service of a mercer in Cheapside, where, by prudent conduct, she might have retrieved the character she had forfeited in the country; but prudence was not among the number of her virtues: for though she had already suffered for her indiscretion, an intimacy soon subsisted between her master and herself; but as their associations could not conveniently

veniently be held at home, they contrived to meet on evenings at other places, when the mistress of the house was gone to the theatre, or out on a visit.

This connection continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy; when the master, apprehensive of disagreeable consequences at home, advised the girl to quarrel with her mistress, in order that she might be dismissed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where she remained till she was delivered; and in the meantime the connection between her and her master continued as before. Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the master thought himself happy, supposing he could easily free himself from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now began to be heartily tired.

When the girl recovered from her lying-in, he told her that she must go to service, as it did not suit him to maintain her any longer; but this enraged her to the highest degree, and she threatened to discover the nature of their connection to his wife, unless he would make her a present of twenty guineas; and with this demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on such terms.

Being now in possession of money, and in no want of cloaths in which to make a genteel appearance, she removed from Hackney to Wych-street, without Temple-bar; but was scarcely settled in her new lodgings before she sent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom she acquainted with the nature of the connection that had subsisted between her late master and herself, but she did not mention her place of abode in this letter.

The consequence was, that the mercer was ob-

liged to acknowledge the crime of which he had been guilty, and solicit his wife's pardon, in terms of the utmost humiliation. This pardon was promised, but whether it was ever ratified remains a doubt.

Mrs. Adams had the advantage of an engaging figure, and passing as a young widow in her new lodgings, she was soon married to a young fellow in the neighbourhood; but it was not long before he discovered the imposition that had been put on him, on which he embarked on board a ship in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almost expended; but as her cloaths were yet good, an attorney of Clement's-Inn took her into keeping; and after she had lived a short time with him, she went to another of the same profession, with whom she cohabited above two years; but on his marriage she was once more abandoned to seek her fortune.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to condescend to accept of a common service, she became connected with a notorious bawd of Drury lane, who was very glad of her assistance, and promised herself considerable advantage, from the association. In this situation Mrs. Adams displayed her charms to considerable advantage, and was as happy as any common prostitute can expect to be; but alas! what is this happiness but a prelude to the extremity of misery and distress? Such indeed it was found by Mrs. Adams, who having been gratified by a gentleman with a considerable sum of money, the bawd quarrelled with her respecting the dividing of it, and a battle ensuing, our heroine was turned out of the house, after she had got a black eye in the contest.

After this she used to parade the Park in the day-

day-time, and walk the streets in the evening, in search of casual lovers ; but as she joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, few of her chance acquaintance escaped being robbed. She was often taken into custody for these practices, but continually escaped through defect of evidence.

At length an end was put to her depredations; for having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent-garden, she picked his pockets of all his money and a bank note to a large amount, and left him while he was asleep. When the gentleman awaked, he sent immediate notice to the bank to stop payment ; and as Mrs. Adams came soon afterwards to receive the money for the note, she was taken into custody, and lodged in prison ; and being in a short time tried at the Old Bailey, she was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at *Tyburn*, on the 16th of June, 1702.

After her conviction she lived in the same gay and dissipated manner that she had done before, and was visited by many of her former acquaintance, who supplied her with money to support her extravagance. Agreeable to her own request too, their mistaken bounty contributed to purchase her a suit of mourning, in which she was executed ; and they buried her in as handsome a manner as if her life had been conducted by the rules of virtue, and she had likewise been a woman of fortune :

The reflections naturally arising from this case, are such as we hope may prove serviceable to our readers of both sexes.—This young woman submitting to be debauched by her master's son, at Reading, laid the foundation of her ruin. Hence girls of her rank of life should be taught never to yield to unlawful solicitations : for when men

above their own sphere pay addressee to them, it may reasonably be supposed that honourable marriage is not intended; and girls should always despise addressee of every other kind, and shun the deluder as they would a pestilence.

When Mary Adams got a reputable service in London, she had a fair opportunity of recovering her character; and the moment her master attempted to have seduced her, she ought to have quitted her place. Her meanness afterwards, in threatening to discover to her mistress the nature of the connexion between her master and herself, in order to extort twenty guineas from him; and her actually doing this after she had received the money, sufficiently marks the profligacy of her mind!

The figure the mercer made in begging pardon of his wife, for his connection with the girl, paints, in a striking light, the meanness to which a man is liable to stoop who violates the sacred laws of marriage.

The rest of Mrs. Adams's life carries its own lesson with it. The kept mistress, on the slightest change in the inclination of her keeper, is liable to descend to the rank of a common woman of the town; the common women are almost all of them thieves: and theft naturally leads to the gallows.

The young fellow who first debauched this girl, at Reading, must have felt great uneasiness at hearing that she brought herself to an ignominious end, in a great measure through his originally seducing her. But for that first misfortune, she might have lived an honest wife to a countryman of her own rank, and avoided the disgrace of a shameful exit at *Tyburn*.

The

The man who thinks of seducing a poor girl, should reflect that, besides the ruin of her, he involves her unhappy parents and friends in all the bitterness of woe! From this melancholy tale then, let our men and maids be taught that stolen pleasures, though tempting to their irregular passions, are followed by a series of bad consequences, and end in fruitless repentance, and aggravated despair! Let them also learn to honour the married state; for "Marriage is honourable, and the bed undefiled."

Hail wedded Love!

Mysterious Law! True source of human Offspring!

By thee adulterous lust was driven from Men,
Among the bestial Herds to range: by thee,
Founded in Reason, loyal, just, and pure,
Relations dear, and all the Charities
Of Father, Son, and Brother, first were known.

MILTON.

Account of THOMAS ESTRICK, who was Executed at Tyburn for House-breaking.

THOMAS ESTRICK was born in the Borough of Southwark, in the year 1676. His father was a currier, and instructed him in his own business; but the boy shewed a very early attachment to pleasures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his situation.

When the time of his apprenticeship was expired, he was of too unsettled a disposition to follow his business, and therefore engaged in the service

service of a gentleman of fortune at Hackney : but he had not been long in this new place, before his master was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects, to the amount of above eighty pounds.

The fact was, that Estrick had stolen these effects ; but such was the ascendancy that he had obtained over his master, and such the baseness of his own disposition, that he had art enough to impute the crime to one of the servant maids, who was turned out of the house, with every circumstance of unmerited disgrace.

Estrick having quitted this service, took a shop in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate-church, where he carried on the business to which he was bred ; and while in this station he courted a girl of reputation, to whom he was soon afterwards married. It should be remarked, that he had been instigated to rob his master, at Hackney, by some young fellows of a profligate disposition : and he had not been married more than half a year, when these dissolute companions threatened to give him up to justice if he refused to bribe them to keep the secret.

Estrick, terrified at the thoughts of a prosecution, gave them his note of hand for the sum they demanded ; but when the note became due, he was unable to pay it ; on which he was arrested, and lay some time in prison ; but at length obtained his liberty in defect of the prosecution of the suit.

As soon as he was at large, he went to lodge with a person who kept his former house in Cock-Alley ; but on taking possession of his lodgings, he found that a woman who lodged and died in the room during his absence, had left a box containing cash to the amount of about ninety pounds.

Having

Having possessed himself of this sum, he opened a shop in Long-Alley, Moorfields; but his old associates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he should not be safe in that situation; and therefore took shipping for Holland, having previously disposed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage; and therefore he spent the greater part of it, and then returned to his native country.

It was not long after his return before he found himself reduced to great distress; on which he had recourse to a variety of illegal methods to supply his necessities. He was guilty of privately stealing, was a house-breaker, a street-robber, and a highwayman. In a short time, however, the career of his wickedness was at an end. He was apprehended, tried, and convicted; and in consequence thereof was executed at Tyburn, on the 10th of March, 1703, before he had attained the age of twenty-seven years.

From the particular circumstances which contributed to bring this offender to justice; the ill effects of keeping bad company may be learnt. If he had not associated with young fellows of bad character, he would not have been reduced to the necessity of giving his note of hand, which carried him to a prison, and consequently threw him out of business when he seemed disposed to get an honest living. The same unhappy connection likewise obliged him to depart for Holland, after he was a second time settled; and these circumstances, in fact, contributed to his final disgrace and destruction. Hence let youth in general be taught to “avoid every appearance

“ of evil,” and to remember that text of scripture, “ If sinners intice thee, consent thou not.”

Interesting Particulars respecting JOHN PETER DRAMATTI, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the Murder of his Wife.

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was the son of Protestant parents, and born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc, in France. He received a religious education; and when he arrived at years of maturity, he left his own country on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva.

From thence he travelled into Germany, and served as a horse-grenadier under the elector of Brandenburg, who was afterwards king of Prussia. When he had been in this sphere of life about a year, he came over to England, and entered into the service of lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel De la Meloniere; and having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was broke, in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty. He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age, who pretending she had a great fortune, and allied to the royal family of France, he soon married her, on account of her supposed wealth and rank, and her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country

try in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life.

He had not been long married before he found he had been imposed upon, for his wife had no fortune at all; on which he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer: but being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offering his service again to lord Haversham, he was accepted, and in this service he remained till the perpetration of the crime which brought him to a shameful end.

The substance of the narrative that Dramatti gave of the cause and consequence of the murder was as follows: His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at lord Haversham's, which he refused to consent to, saying that his lordship did not know he was married. Hereupon she entreated him to quit his service, which he likewise refused; saying that he could not provide for himself so well in any other situation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave so indulgent a master.

The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition; and intimated that Dramatti had fixed his affections on some other woman: and the following circumstance aggravated the malignant disorder that wrangled in her mind.

Dramatti being attacked by a violent fever about the Christmas preceding the time that the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of

him at his lordship's expence. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant girl now came into the room, bringing him some water-gruel; and the wife suspecting that this was her rival in her husband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in answer to which he said he must be out of his senses to abandon a situation in which he was so well provided for, and treated with such humanity.

Dramatti having recovered of his illness, visited his wife at her lodgings as often as was consistent with the duties of his station; but this not being so often as she wished him to come, she grew more uneasy than before. At length lord Haverham took lodgings at Kensington, and Dramatti was so busy in packing up some articles on the occasion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length she learnt this circumstance from another quarter; on which, enflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington, to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able, and as a proof of it had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed.

Frequent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till, on the 9th of June, Dramatti being sent to London, and his business lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood, and having been with her some time, he was about to take his leave, but she laid hold of him and wanted to detain him: but he got from her, and went towards Charing-Cross, to which place she followed him; but

but at length she seemed to yield to his persuasions that she would go home, as he told her he was going to his lord in Spring-Gardens; but instead of going home, she went and waited for him at, or near, Hyde-Park-Gate, and in the evening he found her there as he was going to Kensington. At the Park gate, she stopped him, and insisted that he should go no farther unless he took her with him; and after many words had passed between them, she said she would go in spite of his teeth, or else she would have his life, or he should have her's. He now left her, and went towards Chelsea: but she followed him till they came near Bloody-Bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, she seized his neckcloth, and would have strangled him; whereupon he beat her most unmercifully both with his cane and sword, which latter he imagined she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength, and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him.

Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty, and then went to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his cloaths were bloody, he said that he had been attacked by two men in Hyde-Park, who would have robbed him of his cloaths; but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them.

This story was credited for the present, and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper cried in the streets respecting the murder that had been committed; and though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment,

moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape; but dispatched his business in London, and returned to Kensington.

On the following day the servants heard a paper cried, respecting a barbarous murder that had been committed near Bloody-bridge; on which they told their lord of it, hinting that they suspected Dramatti to have murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and he came home the preceding evening with his sword broke, the hilt of it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood on his cloaths.

Upon this lord Haversham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think he was suspected, bid him get the coach ready, and in the interim sent for a constable, who, on searching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife.

When he was examined before a justice of peace, he confessed that he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said that his wife was a worthless woman, who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune.

On his trial it appeared that he went into lord Haversham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed that he had an intention of robbing his lordship, who called out to know what he wanted. But in a solemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he stedfastly denied all intention of robbing his master, but only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler, which he had forgot, that he might have it in readiness to take in some asses milk in the morning, for his lordship.

The

The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde-Park and Chelsea, and a track of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a sword was found sticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession.

The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and on the 21st of July, 1703, was executed at *Tyburn*, and yielded up his life a sincere penitent, not only with respect to the crime for which he suffered, but for all others of which he had been guilty.

From the above melancholy narrative the reader is taught to shun the vice of lying, and to dread jealousy as the most baneful of all the disorders of the mind. The two causes that contributed to the untimely death of this unhappy couple were those above mentioned: by a lie the woman seduced Dramatti to marry, and by her ill-founded jealousy, and ungovernable passion consequent thereon, provoked him to murder.

Though nothing can be urged in extenuation of a crime of so black a dye as murder, yet one can hardly help pitying a man who has been instigated to the commission of it, by a vile deception in the first instance, and ungovernable passions in the second. Our young readers will do well to recollect the following lines of the pious Dr. Watts:

O 'tis a lovely thing for youth
To walk betimes in wisdom's way;
To fear a lie, to speak the truth,
That we may trust to all they say.

Those

Those in the married state who peruse this story will be particularly struck with the following words of the immortal Shakespear,

The Jealous are the Damn'd :

for surely nothing can approach so nearly to the torments we suppose unhappy spirits to endure in a future state, as the pangs of jealousy, perpetually corroding the mind, and rendering the unhappy subjects of it constantly uneasy with themselves, and objects at once of the pity and derision of others.

*Account of the Life, Conviction and Execution of
THOMAS COOK, who suffered at Tyburn, for
the Murder of JOHN COOPER, a Constable,
in May-fair.*

THOMAS COOK was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester: when he was about fifteen years of age his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years, and then running away, engaging in the service of — Needham, esquire, who was page of honor to king William the third: but his mother writing to him, and intimating, in the vulgar phrase, that “a gentleman’s service was no inheritance,” he quitted his place, and going to Gloucester, engaged in the business of a butcher, being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed this trade for some time, and served master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business, and took an inn; but it
does

does not appear that he was successful in it, since he soon afterwards turned grazier.

Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter, at May-fair, a circumstance which led to the unhappy catastrophe, the particulars of which we are about to relate.

At the period of which we are writing, May-Fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shews were exhibited, and hither resorted all those vagabonds of every kind that are a disgrace to any neighbourhood. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree, that queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which, the justices of the peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance.

The constables going to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty, soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace-officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which some of the latter were wounded.

Cooper, the constable, being active to suppress the rioters, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was deposed upon his trial) while he was in a public-house there, he swore in a profane manner, for which the landlord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him into custody for it; to which he answered, "Are there any of the informing dogs in Ireland? We in

Vol. I. No. 2. K "Lon-

“ London drive them ; for at a fair called May-
 “ Fair, there was a noise which I went out to
 “ see:—there were six foldiers and myself—the
 “ constables played their parts with their staves,
 “ and I played mine ; and when the man drop-
 “ ped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and
 “ went away.”

Cook having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, he was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, whence he was removed by a writ of habeas corpus to London ; and being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, received sentence of death, and was ordered for execution on the 21st of July, 1703.

After conviction he solemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned ; declaring that he had no sword in his hand on the day the constable was killed, and was not in the company of those who killed him. How far he was to be credited in this assertion, or what could induce him to make it, if it was not true, it is impossible to say ; but this declaration is the more extraordinary, as he acknowledged all his other crimes without hesitation.

Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July abovementioned, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn ; but when he was got to High Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. When he came back to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who would have rejoiced with him on his narrow escape ; but he declined all company, except that of those who would assist him in his devotions.

On the Friday that he was to have been executed he received another respite till the
 11th

11th of August, when he underwent the severest rigour of the law with the greatest penitence and resignation.

Such is the history of the fate of this man, who seems to have fallen a victim to the low passion he had imbibed for the life of a prize-fighter; for he used to make it his boast, that there was not a more courageous man than himself in the world. To the credit of the present age, the practice of prize-fighting is abolished:—the bear-gardens are no more:—the justices of the peace have done much towards suppressing the fairs in the villages in the neighbourhood of London:—the duration of Bartholomew-fair is abridged from near three weeks to three days. These are great and important regulations; and it is to be hoped that the work of reformation will go forward till it is absolutely complete, that the rising generation may be protected from those evils to which they are liable at all these places of irregular meeting.

May the fate of this malefactor have its proper effect, in teaching youth to refrain from evil company, and to associate only with those by whose instructions they may grow wiser and better!

The following is a copy of verses written by Cook, and sung by him at the place of execution; which we insert, not for the sake of the poetry, but as a specimen of the devotion of his mind.

I HOPE my death will warning give,
 To all that here attend,
 And by my sad example may
 Your lives learn to amend.
 Amend your lives, young men I pray,
 And do no more offend

That great and mighty God above,
 Whose kingdom hath no end.
 He's a God that merciful is,
 To all that do believe
 In Jesus Christ his only Son,
 Who will our sins forgive.
 Pray do repent of all your sins,
 Before it is too late;
 And beg the help of God above,
 For Jesus Christ his sake;
 Who suffered death upon the cross,
 To make a recompence,
 To all that do in him believe,
 Before he did go hence.
 In him I do put all my trust,
 Whose mercy is full sure,
 Hoping my soul with him shall dwell,
 Henceforth for evermore. Amen.

" This I writ as my last farewell ;
 " Hoping my soul with Christ shall dwell." Amen.
 THOMAS COOK,

Short Narrative of the Case of GERALD FITZGERALD, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for Murder.

GERALD FITZGERALD was the son of a capital farmer near Limerick, in Ireland, where he was born in the year 1671, and educated in the Protestant religion, his father being of that persuasion.

At the age of fifteen he came to London, to learn the art of peruke making, under a relation of his father's; but soon associating himself with
 bad

bad company, he ran away from his kinsman at the expiration of three years, and entered into the service of Sir Henry Johnson; and had the direction of the domestic affairs of his new master. However he had not been long in this service when his old associates persuaded him to leave it on which he entered on board a man of war, and was soon advanced to the station of steward to the captain.

He made some voyages to the East and West-Indies, and on his return to England was married to a relation of the captain, a young lady, whose singular good qualities were admirably calculated to give happiness to any man who possessed wisdom sufficient to know in what true happiness consists.

He had not been married many months before he went out as purser to a man of war bound to the East Indies; but this ship being lost on the coast of China, he returned to England in a merchantman, and afterwards sailed as a purser in a ship of war, which took some prizes, of which Fitz-Gerald received his share.

Being again in London, he began to grow neglectful of his wife, engaged in the vices of the town, kept the worst company, and frequented houses of ill fame. In one of these he quarrelled with a gentleman, named Pix, respecting a woman of the town, and a violent contention arising, Fitz-Gerald killed the other on the spot with his sword.

For this offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted on full evidence, he was hanged at *Tyburn*, on the 22d of December, 1703, dying a sincere penitent for his crimes, which, though aggravated in their nature, had been but of short continuance.

The fate of Fitz-Gerald should afford a lesson of caution to youth in general, never to associate with women of abandoned character; and, in particular, this resolution ought to be impressed on the minds of married men. This unhappy malefactor was united in wedlock with a young lady, whose relation to him demanded his protection, and whose superior virtues had every claim to his tenderest regard; yet, in a rash quarrel about a woman of the town, could he murder his friend, make his relations wretched, and bring destruction on his own head.

Fitz-Gerald had been educated in a strict regard to the duties of religion; but this wore off by his being a constant witness of that dissoluteness of manners which too frequently prevails on board our ships, where it often happens that no chaplain attends to perform that duty, for the discharge of which he is paid out of the wages of the seamen: a shameful abuse, which calls for redress from those whose station includes the superintendence of naval affairs!

Relation of the fate of THOMAS SHARP, who was hanged at the end of *Long Acre*, for murdering a watchman.

THIS offender was born in the city of Exeter, in the year 1674, and when he was advanced to man's estate, he enlisted for a soldier, and having served abroad for some time, the regiment he belonged to was ordered to England, when Sharp soon deserting from it, commenced housebreaker, in company of a set of vile and abandoned miscreants, who at that time committed

mitted the most horrid depredations in the neighbourhood of London and Westminster.

Sharp having committed a burglary in the house of Mrs. Brown of St. Giles's, was soon afterwards taken into custody, and being tried and convicted of the fact, sentence of death was passed on him; but he was afterwards pardoned, on the condition of again entering into the regiment from which he had deserted.

Such, however, was the force of that habit of vice which he had acquired, that it was not long before he again deserted, and returned to his former practices, which he carried to such a height, that the week seldom passed in which he was not concerned in breaking open several houses: and this dangerous trade he and his associates continued for about two years after Sharp had received his pardon for the former offence; and probably their depredations might have continued for a considerable time longer, but that Sharp was guilty of a most enormous crime, which rendered his fate equally speedy and certain.

While he was making an attempt to break open a house in Drury-lane, and when he had nearly succeeded, he was seen by a watchman, who immediately alarmed his brother officers of the night. Sharp was so enraged at this detection, that he instantly pulled a pistol from his pocket, shot the watchman dead on the spot, and endeavoured to make his escape: but by this time the other watchmen being alarmed, he was taken into custody, detained for that night, and committed to Newgate on the following day.

When he was brought to his trial, the jury were fully convinced of his guilt, in consequence of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged at the end of Long-Acre, very near the spot

spot where the murder was committed; and in this place he suffered on the 22d of September, 1704.

The short lesson to be learnt from the fate of this malefactor is, to be "content with that station to which it has pleased God to call us." The situation of a private soldier is not the most agreeable; but when a man has been rash enough to enlist, he should have prudence enough to serve with patience and resignation till he can obtain an honourable discharge.

It is a circumstance to be lamented that the pay of our common soldiers is no greater now than it was more than half a century ago, though some provisions are more than doubled in price before the expiration of that period. Hence, probably, it arises, that we have such an amazing number of thieves among our common soldiers; a number much greater than is generally imagined; for when a military man is committed to Newgate for trial, it is not expressed that he is a soldier. In a word, the condition of these men is pitiable in a high degree; and we ought to encrease the pay of our soldiers, or lessen the number on the present establishment.

Incidents respecting the Life and Execution of
JOHN SMITH, who suffered at *Tyburn* for robbing on the Highway.

JOHN SMITH was born at Winchcomb, about ten miles from the city of Gloucester, of honest parents, who gave him a decent and religious education, and brought him up to the business of peruke-making: but being of an idle
and

and extravagant disposition, he quitted his employment, and went to sea; and though he continued a sailor but a short time, yet his manners became more abandoned during this short period.

Having quitted the naval service he became intimately acquainted with a person of his own profession in Chancery-lane, with whom he agreed to go and commit depredations on the highway; and, in consequence of this determination, they set out together on Sunday, the 29th of October, 1704.

They proceeded as far as Paddington, where they waited in expectation of seeing some person whom they might rob; and in this interval Smith looked over a stile, and seeing the gallows (which was then left always standing) at Tyburn, he was struck with a sense of the danger and ignominy to which he was exposing himself, and hereupon he would have advised his companion to go home; but the latter refused so to do, and ridiculed Smith for his timidity.

A short while after one Mr. Birch rode down the road, whom they robbed of his mare; and on the following day Smith set out on this mare, and robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches near Epping-Forest. On the next Wednesday he committed depredations on three other stage-coaches and a Hackney-coach, on Hounslow-Heath; and on the Saturday following he robbed three more coaches in the neighbourhood of St. Alban's, in all which robberies he did not obtain booty to the amount of above twenty pounds.

On Monday, November the sixth, Smith attacked a gentleman's carriage on Finchley-Common; but being immediately pursued, he was taken into custody, and being tried at the next sessions held at the Old-Bailey, he was capitally

convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of December, 1704, after confessing the justice of his sentence, and hoping that youth would take warning by his fatal example, and avoid those practices that had brought him to final ruin.

There is something remarkable in this malefactor that he was a highwayman of only eight days standing at the utmost; for the first robbery that he committed was on the 29th of October, and the last on the sixth of November, as above-mentioned.

Various sermons have been preached on the brevity of human life; but surely none of them can strike the mind more forcibly than the conclusion to be drawn from the fate of this malefactor. What a short period from the first notorious violation of the law, to the becoming an instance of its utmost rigour!

We do not often find that criminals are cut off after so very short a career as this man: but those who abandon themselves to the making unlawful depredations on their neighbours may be morally certain that they have but a short time to live, and even that this short period shall be filled with care, anxiety, and perturbation. What man can rest in his bed, who lies down with the consciousness of having robbed his neighbour? Sleep is absolutely necessary to the support of the human frame; to be sure thieves may sleep when only overcome by drunkenness: but even then their sleep must be disturbed; and they must, in the language of the poet, "fear each bush an officer." A felon, convicted in his own mind, can scarcely take up a news-paper, in which he will not read something respecting wretches in circumstances in some degree corresponding with his own.

What

What a dreadful life ! and how easy to avoid it by a strict adherence to the maxim, “ Do unto all men, as you would they should do unto you.”

Particulars of the Life, Trial, Confession, and Execution, &c. of WILLIAM ELBY, who was hanged at *Fulham*, for House-breaking and Murder.

WILLIAM ELBY was indicted for robbing the house of — Barry, Esq. of *Fulham*, and murdering his gardener; the circumstances of which horrid tale are as follow :

This man having determined on robbing the house, arrived at *Fulham* soon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery.

As the gardener had a light in his hand, Elby, terrified lest he should be known, seized a knife, and stabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This being done, he broke open a chest of drawers, and stole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in *London*.

This Elby was naturally inclined to gaiety, and dressed in a style much above people of his profession ; but being at this juncture in possession of a greater sum of money than usual, those who knew him suspected that it could not have been honestly obtained ; and every one now talking of the horrid murder that had been committed at *Fulham*, the idea occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby ; and their suspicion was strengthened, by reflecting that he began to

abound in cash immediately after the murder was committed.

Elby at this period used to frequent a public-house in the Strand, where being casually in company, the robbery and murder at Fulham became the subject of conversation. Hereupon Elby turned pale, and seeing one of the company go out of the room, he was so terrified that he immediately ran out of the house without paying the reckoning.

Some short time after Elby was gone, a person called for him; but as he was not there, said he would go to his lodgings. The landlord, enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, and remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder.

Elby on his trial steadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, but that a woman with whom he cohabited became an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the perpetration of the fact.

Some other persons likewise deposed, that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's house on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not know what had happened, they had entertained no suspicion of him.

This circumstance being sufficient conviction, Elby received sentence of death, and being executed at *Fulham* on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

Elby confessed that he committed the robbery, and that he had been guilty of many other crimes;
but

but denied being guilty of the murder, declaring that an accomplice murdered the gardener. In this, however, not the slightest regard could be paid to his declaration, nothing arising in the course of the evidence, to intimate that he had any confederate.

William Elby was born in the year 1673, at Deptford in Kent, and served his time with a blockmaker at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with some women of ill fame. After the term of his apprenticeship was expired he kept company with some young fellows of such bad character, that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship to prevent worse consequences.

Having returned from sea he enlisted as a soldier; but while in this situation he committed many small thefts, in order to support bad women with whom he was connected.

At length he deserted from the army, assumed a new name, and prevailed on some of his companions to engage in house-breaking; and thus proceeding from one degree of vice to another, till he committed the crime for which his life became the just sacrifice to the insulted laws of his country.

Some few remarks on the conduct and fate of this malefactor may tend to the service of such of the rising generation, whose passions may tempt them to deviate from the paths of virtue.

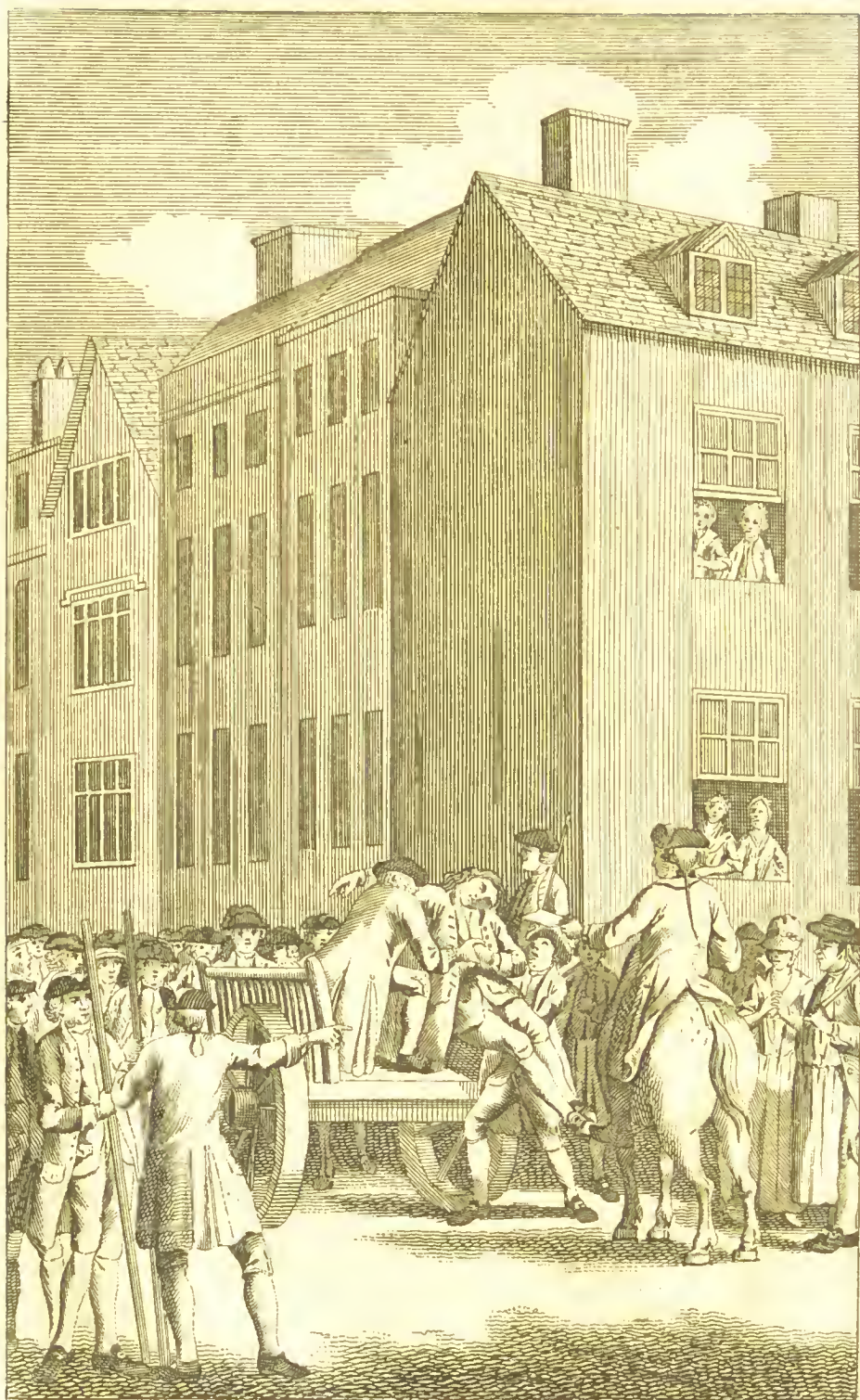
The first and grand cause of suspicion against Elby, was his abounding in money soon after the robbery was committed. It generally happens that thieves spend in extravagance what they have dishonestly obtained; so true is the old saying, "What's got over the devil's back is spent under his belly." The circumstance of his turning
pale,

pale, and his hasty departure from the room at the public-house where the robbery and murder were mentioned, mark, in a very striking manner, the agonizing tortures of a guilty conscience !

Elby was no sooner gone than a person came to enquire for him, whence a discovery was made of his lodgings, and he was taken into custody ; and the most material witness against him on his trial proves to be a woman with whom he had cohabited. Hence let persons of dishonest lives learn, that notwithstanding all their previous care and secrecy they are never safe, even for a single moment, and that those in whom they most confide may be the immediate instruments, in the hand of providence, to bring them to condign punishment.

His denying his principal guilt to the last moment, proves that the mind dreads the fear of public censure, even at the moment the body is about to become an immediate prey to the worms. Hence, let every man blush to be guilty of a crime, which in his dying moments, he must necessarily blush to acknowledge.

Let virtue all our footsteps guide,
 And all our ways attend,
 Guard us through life with decent pride,
 Sustain us in our end !
 For let misfortunes e'er so great,
 Oppress us e'er so hard ;
 Yet virtue will, or soon or late,
 Attain its due reward !



Valois sculpt

A reprieve brought for a Criminal on the road to Tyburn.

Circumstantial Account of the Life, Trial, and Execution of EDWARD JEFFERIES, gentleman, who was convicted, and executed at *Tyburn*, for the Murder of ROBERT WOODCOCK; with other Particulars respecting ELIZABETH TORSHELL, who was acquitted of the same Murder.

EDWARD JEFFERIES, who is the principal subject of this narrative, was born about the year 1666, at the Devizes, in Wiltshire. He served his clerkship to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on business on his own account; but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a considerable fortune, he entered into too profuse a way of living, and embarked in the debaucheries of the age, which dissipated his substance.

Soon after, however, he had the good fortune to marry a young lady of St. Albans, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued in his former course of debauchery, which naturally occasioned a separation.

Jefferies now associated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connection. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates respecting this woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue Posts near Pall-Mall, on the day that he committed the murder.

After dinner, they went into the fields near Chelsea, and a quarrel arising between them respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jefferies drew his sword; and before Woodcock, who was left-handed could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almost immediately died. Woodcock had no sooner fallen than Jefferies rubbed some of his blood

blood upon his (the deceased's) sword, took something out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelsea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torsbell.

There were some boys playing in the fields who saw the body of the deceased, and a part of the transaction above-mentioned. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torsbell came, among a crowd of other people, to see it; and was taken into custody, on her saying she knew the murdered party, and expressing great concern at his fate.

Torsbell's lodgings being searched, a number of articles were found, which she owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to have belonged to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate.

Mr. Jefferies alledged in his defence that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed; he called several witnesses to prove an alibi; but as these did not agree in the circumstances, he was convicted, and received sentence of death, Mrs. Torsbell was acquitted.

All the while he lay under condemnation he repeatedly denied the having committed the murder, and exerted all his interest to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promised, through the mediation of the duke of Ormond.

September the 9th, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had got as far as St. Giles's a respite met him, to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month; but on that day he was executed, his guilt being too apparent.

At the place of execution, he again denied the fact: but said he freely forgave those who had injured

jured him, and died in perfect charity with all mankind. He did not appear in the least dejected on account of his calamitous situation; but desired the prayers of all good christians in the last moments of his existence.

We may learn from the case of the above wretched malefactor the evil consequence of leading a dissipated life. If Mr. Jefferies had gone on in the way marked out for him by Providence, he might have lived in a high degree of credit and reputation; but he, like the prodigal son, wasted his substance in riotous living. However, on his marriage, he had a second chance for happiness; but, like the cock in the fable, he threw away the jewel which he had obtained in a wife.

We may further learn from his connection with Mrs. Torshell, that as it was contrary to the laws of the church, and in defiance of those of morality, so connections of that sort ought to be particularly avoided by married men of every rank of life. The instances are comparatively few where a connection of this kind leads to murder: but as every such connection is a deviation from the laws of virtue and honour, they ought carefully to be shunned by every one who has a regard to his reputation in this world, or his happiness in the world to come.

Narrative of the Life, Execution, and wonderful Recovery of JOHN SMITH, called HALF-HANGED SMITH, with cursory Remarks on his extraordinary Escape.

JOHN SMITH was the son of a farmer at Malton, about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer

Vol. I. No. 3. M in

in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchant-man, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was liberated.

Smith had not been long disengaged from the naval service when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connections, and engaged with some of his dissolute companions as a house-breaker.

December the 5th, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence he seemed very little affected with his situation, being amused with the hopes of a reprieve through the interest of his friends.

An order, however, came for his execution on the 24th day of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner; but when he had hung near fifteen minutes, the people present cried out, "A reprieve!" Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, he soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding, and other proper applications.

As soon as he had recovered his senses, he was asked what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows; that, "when he was turned off, he, for some time, was sensible of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing upwards: that, having
 " forced



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JOHN SMITH cut down at TYBURN,
*in consequence of a reprieve which came five Minutes
 after he had been turned off.*



“ forced their way to his head, he, as it were,
“ saw a great blaze or glaring light, which seemed
“ to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then
“ he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut
“ down, and began to come to himself, the blood
“ and spirits forcing themselves into their former
“ channels, put him, by a sort of pricking or
“ shooting, to such intolerable pain, that he could
“ have wished those hanged who had cut him
“ down.”

Smith after this narrow escape from the grave, pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February : yet such was his propensity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and being again apprehended : was tried at the Old Bailey for housebreaking : but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

Notwithstanding this second extraordinary escape, he was a third time indicted : but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct proved to be unmerited.

There is no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour ; but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensations of Providence so ably evinced in his own person.

History scarce affords a more extraordinary case than this of Smith : but let no one who reads this account of his triple escape from the gallows indulge a moment's inclination to the pursuit of illicit practices : since in almost every instance but the present, the ways of vice assuredly lead to destruction ; and we are not assured that they did

not do so in his case; for the sequel of his life has not come to our knowledge.

Narrative of the Life, Trial, and execution of
 ROGER LOWEN, who was hanged at *Turnham-
 Green*, for the Murder of Mr. RICHARD LLOYD.

ROGER LOWEN, the unfortunate subject of this narrative was a native of Hia over, where he was born about the year 1667, and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being huntsman to the duke of Zell, that prince sent young Lowen into France to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman; and on his return from his travels he was one of the pages under the duke's master of the horse.

Having come over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the duke of Shrewsbury patronized him, and procured him a place. Having thus obtained something like a settlement, he married a young English woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a considerable time: but, in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend King William at the treaty of Ryswick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her cousin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd of Turnham-Green.

Lowen having returned from Holland, became, with what justice we cannot say, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received incontestible proof of her criminal conversation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of whom he was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a jury composed equally of Englishmen and foreigners.

During

During the course of the evidence it appeared that on the evening preceding the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day: that Mr. Lloyd, being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness: that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility. That Mr. Lloyd put his sword in a corner of the room, some time after which Lowen invited him into the garden to see his plants: after which they came together into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to hasten the dinner: that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler; and that while the deceased stood with his hands behind him, Lowen, stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife, (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, "Speak to me, my dear!" but he was unable to do so, and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then he died.

Mr. Hawley, a justice of peace in the neighbourhood, passing by at the instant Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened; on which he examined the prisoner, who confessed his intention of having committed the murder sooner, and was only concerned lest he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

All these particulars respecting the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received sentence of death, in consequence

sequence of which he was hanged at Turnham-Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

All the while he lay under sentence of death he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Ruperti, two divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrociousness of the crime which he had committed; he became at last a sincere penitent, confessing with his last breath the horrid crime of shedding innocent blood.

We may learn from this melancholy narrative the fatal effects of jealousy, which generally judges ill of the party accused, and always renders the jealous person miserable. Mr. Lowen was jealous of his wife; but we have no proof that there was any foundation for his suspicions. Hence let married men be taught not to indulge unwarrantable sentiments respecting that amiable sex who are the great source of all the comforts of life. A man may be wretched in a thousand instances which occur in life; but let him retire to the wife of his bosom, and her advice will extricate him from many a difficulty, or her consolations soothe him to bear his burthens. There is great wisdom in the following proverbs of Solomon, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that she shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil, all the days of her life. Her children arise up, and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her." But let us suppose there is the greatest room for jealousy, still the provocation doth not authorise the commission of murder, seeing that the laws of our country are sufficient to give an ample redress.

Particulars of the Life, Trial, and Behaviour of
 JOHN HERMAN BRIAN, who was hanged in
 Chains, for robbing, and setting fire to the
 House of PETER PERSUADE, Esq.

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN, was a native of
 Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in
 the Canton of Berne in Switzerland where he was
 born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland
 while very young, and went to Geneva, where he
 lived in the service of a gentleman above four
 years, and then made the tour of Italy with a
 person of fortune.

Having completed his tour he returned to Eng-
 land, and lived in several reputable families for
 the space of about three years, and last of all, for
 about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade,
 where he committed the facts which very justly
 cost him his life.

Brian was brought to his trial on the 16th of
 October, 1707, and indicted for breaking open
 the dwelling-house of Peter Persuade, Esq. and
 stealing a gold etwee case and chain, a gold watch,
 seventeen guineas, and other valuable effects. He
 was likewise indicted for burning and consuming
 the mansion-house of Peter Persuade; Esq. in St.
 James's-Street.

During the evidence it appeared, that the pri-
 soner had been discharged from his service two days
 before the commission of the fact: that the house
 was made fast about ten at night, when the family
 went to bed; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up
 her watch, etwee case, &c. that waking about
 three in the morning she imelt a fire, on which
 she left her chamber, and found a lighted flam-
 benux

beaux in the passage, which had burnt the boards; then opening a parlour-door, the flames spread with such rapidity that the family had only time to preserve their lives.

A poor woman going by at the time, and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall, (supposed to be Brian) who said to her "D—n you, are you drunk? What do you do here knocking at the people's doors at this time?" and immediately he went away.

Moreover it came out in evidence that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee-case to Messrs. Stevenson and Acton, Goldsmiths, for eight pounds; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and, on enquiry, found to whom it belonged. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him.

As the goldsmiths suspected it to be stolen, it may seem extraordinary that they did not stop the prisoner at first: but this was not customary ninety years ago. It is a doctrine well worthy notice, that in case of felony, every man is a constable, and runs no hazard in taking the suspected party into custody.

From the testimony of other evidences it appeared that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day he quitted this lodging, and took another in Spital-fields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade's effects.

It likewise appeared that he had sold a fowling-piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged against him; asserting that he bought all the goods of a stranger; but as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty without the least hesitation.

While under sentence of death he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses and jury; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life; however, the circumstances against him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declarations.

Brian likewise made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected herein, he was properly secured till the time of his execution; and being asked by the ordinary of Newgate how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempts, he answered that "Life was sweet, and that any other man as well as himself would endeavour to save it if he could."

This offender suffered the sentence of the law in St. James's Street before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was afterwards hanged in chains near the gravel-pits at Acton.

From the fate of this malefactor some useful lessons may be derived. It seldom happens that a robbery is committed but some of the stolen goods are offered to sale. In this case, if the intended purchaser be honest, detection must always follow; for in general it is easy to judge from ap-

pearances and other circumstances, whether the effects that a man offers are really his own property, or entrusted to his care by any person who has a right to dispose of them.

Of late years, however, our felons have found a more secure method than they had formerly of disposing of their spoils. There are now many secret receivers of stolen goods, who to the shame of our country flourish in their profligate courses, for as they get great bargains of those articles, which cannot for fear of detection, be offered to many, of course they reap more than common emolument. They have likewise their methods of secretly disposing of them, and that also to the best advantage among themselves, or by transmitting them abroad. Were there no such dishonest characters as these the number of pick-pockets would certainly decrease, it is therefore no unjust remark, that the receiver is as bad as the thief.

If nothing that was stolen could be safely disposed of, scarce any thing would be taken but money; and how few instances have we, of highway robberies, except where the obtaining of ready cash is the principal object of the villain's search?

The crime of the malefactor before us is heightened by murder, being added to robbery; for though in the event no person's life was lost, his intention was as criminal as if the whole neighbourhood had been reduced to ashes, and all the inhabitants had perished in the flames.

The view of Brian must have been to conceal the robbery by the fire. Hence let those who are tempted to do an evil act learn that the commission of a small crime as naturally leads to the perpetration of a greater, as the waters of rivers flow
into

into the sea. Let them learn to guard against the first inducement to an evil act: let them resist it with all the resolution in their power, and devoutly pray for that assistance against temptation, which may be reasonably expected by those who ask it in the full confidence of faith.

We should likewise observe, that robberies attempted and perpetrated in the night, are generally discovered in the broad face of day, to the confusion of the offender.

Almighty God, thy piercing eye
Strikes through the shades of night,
And our most secret actions lie
All open to thy sight.

Narrative of the Life, various Robberies, and Execution of JOHN HALL, a Chimney-Sweeper, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for Burglary.

JACK HALL was remarkably distinguished in his time on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

Hall's parents were very poor people, living in Bishop's-Head-Court, Gray's-Inn-Lane, who put him out to a chimney-sweeper; but he had not been long in this employment, before he quitted it, and commenced pickpocket, and was accounted very dextrous in that profession; but notwithstanding this dexterity he was frequently detected, and treated in the usual manner, by ducking in the horse-pond: he was likewise often sent to Bridewell, as a punishment for these offences.

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shop-lifter, and, in the month of January 1698, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing a pair of shoes; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail: but he had no sooner obtained his liberty than he commenced house-breaker; and being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan Bretail, he was sentenced to be hanged, in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of transporting himself, within six months, to some of the American plantations.

In consequence hercof he entered on board a ship, from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices; and they now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind Hall was tried and convicted, in the year 1702, and being first burnt on the cheek, was committed close prisoner to Bridewell for two years.

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker, at Hackney; which burglary was attended with the following circumstances:

Having broke into the house soon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough, and one of the villians stood over them with a drawn sword, while the others went up stairs to rob the house: but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a grand-daughter to the old people,
and

and swore he would thrust her into the oven, if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about seventy pounds.

Notwithstanding this singular robbery was the subject of much conversation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into custody. Soon afterwards the house of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broke open; and Saunders being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he observed these very men, as he was attending at St. James's Gate, about three in the morning; and informing the watchmen, they pursued them; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was wounded in the thigh. Hall escaped; his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew: but he had been so frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was afraid of being tried by his name, and therefore changed it to that of Price; but the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty he returned to his former practices, and in October 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, but once more discharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excesses were, they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his wicked career; wherefore he became an evidence against Chambers, Bell and Fitch, three of his accom-

accomplices, and thus once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn on the 17th of December, 1707.

John Hall being very celebrated in his profession, the following elegy and epitaph made their appearance soon after his life had paid the forfeit to the violated laws of his country.

An Elegy on JACK HALL the Chimney-sweeper.

AT last thy roguish reign is ended,
 And thou deservedly suspended;
 Where art thou now, thou reprobate,
 Who jested at a future state,
 And said the place the devils kept
 Was footy, wanted to be swept?
 But they consulting did agree,
 To send express away for thee:
 And so thou'rt gone the Tyburn-road,
 The nearest way to their abode.
 But yet 'tis thought that there are store
 Of thy sly trade gone there before;
 Witness the bacon, beef, and tongue,
 Which in the chimnies reezing hung,
 Till by the tribe were swept away,
 For which they now severely pay.
 Methinks I see the sulph'rous shore
 Where clouds of thieves sent there before,
 Thee welcome give with dismal roar.

Did'st

Did'st think the fiends there would be civil
Because they're known to love what's evil ?
Make but thy outside like appear,
Thy intellects already are :
So put thy sweeping garments on,
'Twill make each devil think thee one :
Or cause this proverb after all,
Ha ! like to like, says Nick to Hall.
If every rogue throughout the nation,
Should die, like Hall, by suffocation,
Some now in coaches would in carts
At Triple-Tree receive deserts ;
Lawyers, physicians, courtiers, jailors,
Would march in troops, and all the taylors :
Nay, I could mention too a L—d,
But, like his S—h, 'twould be absurd,
Besides Scan—Mag—that is the word.
Some hemp likewise should be commixt,
For many who pervert the text,
And what is worse than thieves can do,
Cheat you of soul and money too,
Lead scandalous and wicked lives,
And, like Bell-swagger, ride your wives.
The benefit of the clergy see,
When some poor rogues are at the tree,
Who 'cause they cannot read a verse,
Are made to sing it, and that's worse ;
Which, by the by, is charming singing :
They shake so well, remember swinging ;
Besides, observe the fatal line,
Makes each exactly stop in time :
O foolish custom ! (as one said)
For sinners when they're almost dead
To have such crotchets in their head
If to this elegy a proper tune is,
Pray howl it forth with *Finis Funis*.

E P I T A P H.

HERE lies Hall's clay,
 Thus swept away ;
 If bolt or key
 Obliged his stay
 At judgment-day,
 He'd make essay
 To get away :
 Be't as it may,
 I'd better say,
 Here lies Jack Hall,
 And that is all.

This life of Hall affords a short and striking lesson to the sons of rapine. His crimes were numerous, and his escapes repeated; yet he returned to the commission of similar crimes, as if resolutely bent on his own ruin.

There are some instances, though very few, of men whom a single misfortune has tempted to reform the error of their ways. Happy would it be if this was the case in every instance. Few men fall a sacrifice to the first crime; but the first ought to be a warning to every one never to commit a second.

Particulars of the Lives and Executions of STEPHEN BUNCE and RICHARD LOW, Accomplices of JOHN HALL, who suffered at the same time.

STEPHEN BUNCE was descended from a reputable family in the country of Kent, and educated by his grandfather, who had an estate of 800l. per annum, in the neighbourhood of

of Feverham. Bunce being of a wild disposition, was sent to sea; and having made two or three voyages, his ship was ordered to Plymouth; where going on shore, he contracted an acquaintance with the daughter of a publican; whom he married; but his wife who was a vulgar woman, soon making illicit connections, he abandoned her, and repaired to London, where he frequented billiard tables and gaming houses, and having soon spent his money in bad company, he began to supply his extravagance by committing public depredations.

Bunce continued his illicit practices till he was detected for stealing a sword from the side of an officer of the city trained-bands; for which offence he was tried in August 1705, found guilty, and received sentence of death: but was afterwards pardoned, on the condition that he should transport himself.

As soon as he obtained his liberty; he immediately associated himself with his old companions; and committed several robberies; for one of which he thought he should be convicted: he therefore turned evidence against his accomplices, who were all executed.

Bunce once more at liberty, entered into connections with Jack Hall; with whom he and Low were apprehended for breaking open the house of Captain Guyon; and were tried, convicted, and executed for this offence. Bunce was not quite 28 years of age when he was hanged. He confessed himself penitent; acknowledged the numerous robberies of which he had been guilty, but requested his friends not to petition for his life, as his suffering the rigour of

the law would be the only proper atonement of his numerous crimes.

Richard Low was born near the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, and sent to sea early in life; but quitting the naval employment, he associated with a number of abandoned fellows, who subsisted by plundering the public. In 1704 he was apprehended for house breaking, but acquitted for want of evidence. He was afterwards admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were all executed on his testimony.

Low having thus again obtained his liberty, began to rob in company with Hall and Bunce; till at length his life paid the forfeit due to his repeated crimes.

In addition to the remarks made on the life of Hall, little can be said, respecting these malefactors. Similar acts of depredation brought them all to the same untimely end. Youth cannot be too frequently or too earnestly warned to avoid those paths that lead to destruction; and they may be assured that no life is, or can be, so agreeable as that which is regulated by the duties of religion, and distinguished by the practice of every moral and social virtue.

Circumstantial Account of the Life, and Execution of JOHN MORGRIDGE, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the Murder of Mr. WILLIAM COPE.

JOHN MORGRIDGE was indicted for the wilful murder of William Cope, gentleman, at a sessions held at the Old-Bailey on the 5th of July 1726.

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The following are the circumstances attending this melancholy case. Cope having obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army, invited several officers to dine with him at the Dolphin Tavern, in Tower street; and one of the parties invited Morgridge likewise to go, assuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope.

When dinner was over, Cope paid the reckoning, and then each man depositing half a crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard room, to which place more liquor was sent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach, and asked for Captain Cope. Being introduced to the guard room, she remained a short time, and then said, "Who will pay " for " my coach?" Morgridge said, "I will;" and having done so, he advanced to salute her; but she pushed him from her in a disdainful manner, and spoke to him in very abusive terms, which induced him to treat her with the same kind of language.

Morgridge's rudeness was resented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel ensued between Cope and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This contest increased to such a degree, that they threw the bottles at each other; till at length Morgridge was so inflamed with passion, that he drew his sword, and stabbed Cope, so that he instantly expired.

Morgridge, being taken into custody, was tried on the day above-mentioned, but a doubt arising in the breasts of the jury, whether he was guilty of murder or manslaughter, they brought in a special verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges.

The judges in consequence hereof met at Serjeant's-Inn, and the case was argued before them by council; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder, because he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally using, but arose from his seat and drew his sword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention.

Morgridge in the interim, however, made his escape from the Marshalsea Prison, and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years; but being uneasy till he re-visited his native country, he imprudently came back to England, and being apprehended, received sentence of death, and was hanged at Tyburn on the 28th of April, 1708.

John Morgridge was about forty years of age; the place of his birth was Canterbury, and his ancestors had served the crown for above two hundred years. He had been kettle-drummer to the first troop of horse guards for a considerable time, and was on the point of being advanced in the army, when the unhappy dispute between him and Mr. Cope took place.

When convicted, he was truly sensible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and submitted to his fate with a devout wish that his misfortune might have its proper effect, in the preventing similar destruction happening to others.

Of several, this is but one instance that we shall have occasion to record, of the fatal consequences arising from a connection with women of abandoned characters: but for a woman of this cast, the two men who were thus sacrificed, the one to the impetuosity of passion, the other to the rigour
of

of the law, might have lived a credit to themselves, and an advantage to the community.

It may not be improper here to remark on the horrid crime of seduction. The man who is guilty of seducing a modest young woman from the paths of virtue is, in some degree, an accessory to every crime and misfortune she may hereafter be exposed to.

In general women are of natures more gentle, of dispositions more harmless, than men : yet when the mind of a woman is once contaminated, she commonly becomes more vicious even than a man of bad character ; and the amiable softness of the sex seems to be totally eradicated.

Should a youth be tempted to a criminal connection with a woman already debauched by another, let him reflect that he is but seeking to perpetuate that infamy she has acquired, and to render still baser a mind already contaminated. One would imagine that a slight degree of thought would be sufficient to restrain youth from connections of this nature : but, unhappily, the passions are more prevalent than reason, and the connection is made before the youth has given himself time to think of its criminality. May this page of our work be an instructive one ; and may those who are tempted to a commission of the crimes we would reprobate, remember the following lines in the proverbs of Solomon : “ And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger ? For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction ; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”

Particular Account of the Life, Conduct, and Execution of WILLIAM GREGG, who was executed with Morgridge for High-Treason, in corresponding with the Enemies of the Queen.

WILLIAM GREGG was born at Montrose in Scotland, and having received the common instructions in the grammar school of that town, finished his education in the University of Aberdeen, and was intended by his friends for the study of divinity; but his inclination leading him to seek for advancement in the state, he came to London, and soon afterwards went abroad as secretary to the ambassador to the court of Sweden.

Gregg during his residence abroad debauched Swedish ladies, and was guilty of some other irregularities, in consequence of which the ambassador dismissed him from his service, and he was glad to embark for London in the first ship that sailed.

As soon as he arrived in London he was engaged by Mr. Secretary Harley, to write dispatches; and letters of great importance were left unsealed and perused by Gregg. As the account of this malefactor which was given by the ordinary of Newgate is very superficial and unsatisfactory, we shall give the following extracts respecting him from Bishop Burnet's History.

“ At this time two discoveries were made very
 “ unlucky for Mr. Harley: Tallard wrote often
 “ to Chamillard, but he sent the letters open to
 “ the secretary's office to be perused and sealed
 “ up, and so to be conveyed by the way of Hol-
 “ land. These were opened upon some suspicion
 “ in Holland, and it appeared, that one in the
 “ secretary's office put letters in them, in which,
 “ as

WILLIAM GREGG—for *High Treason*. III

“ as he offered his service to the courts of France
“ and St. Germain's, so he gave an account of all
“ transactions here. In one of these he sent a
“ copy of the letter that the queen was to write
“ in her own hand to the emperor: and he
“ marked what parts were drawn by the secre-
“ tary, and what additions were made to it by the
“ lord treasurer. This was the letter by which
“ the queen pressed the sending prince Eugene
“ into Spain: and this, if not intercepted, would
“ have been at Versailles many days before it
“ could reach Vienna.

“ He who sent this, wrote, that by this they
“ might see what service he could do them, if
“ well encouraged. All this was sent over to the
“ duke of Marlborough; and upon search it was
“ found to be written by one Gregg, a clerk,
“ whom Harley had not only entertained, but
“ had taken into a particular confidence, with-
“ out enquiring into the former parts of his life;
“ for he was a vicious and a necessitous person,
“ who had been secretary to the queen's envoy in
“ Denmark, but was dismissed by him for his ill
“ qualities. Harley had made use of him to get
“ him intelligence, and he came to trust him
“ with the perusal, and sealing up the letters,
“ which the French Prisoners, here in England,
“ sent over to France, and by that means he got
“ into the method of sending intelligence thither.
“ He, when seized on, either upon remorse or
“ hopes of pardon, confessed all, and signed his
“ confession; upon that he was tried, and plead-
“ ing guilty, was condemned as a traitor; for
“ corresponding with the queen's enemies.

“ At the same time Valiere and Bara, whom
“ Harley had employed as his spies to go often
“ over to Calais, under the pretence of bringing
“ him

“ him intelligence, were informed against, as
 “ spies employed by France to get intelligence
 “ from England, who carried over many letters
 “ to Calais and Bullogne, and, as was believed,
 “ gave such information of our trade and con-
 “ voys, that by their means we had made our
 “ great losses at sea. They were often complain-
 “ ed of upon suspicion, but they were always
 “ protected by Harley; yet the presumptions
 “ against them were so violent: that they were at
 “ last seized on, and brought up prisoners.”

The whigs took such advantage of this circum-
 stance, that Mr. Harley was obliged to resign,
 and his enemies were inclined to carry matters still
 further, and were resolved, if possible, to find
 out evidence enough to affect his life. With this
 view the house of lords ordered a committee to
 examine Gregg, and the other prisoners, who were
 very assiduous in the discharge of their commission;
 as will appear from the following account written
 by the same author.

“ The lords who were appointed to examine
 “ Gregg, could not find out much by him; he
 “ had but newly begun his designs of betraying
 “ secrets, and he had no associates with him in
 “ it. He told them, that all the papers of state
 “ lay so carelessly about the office, that every one
 “ belonging to it, even the door-keepers, might
 “ have read them all. Harley’s custom was to
 “ come to the office late on post-nights, and af-
 “ ter he had given his orders, and wrote his let-
 “ ters, he usually went away, and left all to be
 “ copied out when he was gone. By that means
 “ he came to see every thing, in particular the
 “ queen’s letter to the emperor. He said, he
 “ knew the design on Toulon in May last, but
 “ he did not discover it; for he had not entered

“ on

“ on his ill practices till October. This was all
“ he could say :

“ By the examination of Valiere and Bara, and
“ of many others who lived about Dover, and
“ were employed by them, a discovery was made
“ of a constant intercourse they were in with Ca-
“ lais, under Harley’s protection. They often
“ went over with boats full of wool, and brought
“ back brandy, though both the import and ex-
“ port were severely prohibited. They and those
“ who belonged to the boats carried over by
“ them, were well treated on the French side at
“ the governor’s house, or at the commissary’s;
“ they were kept there till their letters were sent
“ to Paris, and till returns could be brought
“ back, and were all the while upon free cost.
“ The order that was constantly given them was,
“ that if an English or Dutch ship came up with
“ them, they should cast their letters into the sea,
“ but that they should not do it when French
“ ships came up with them: so they were looked
“ on by all on that coast, as the spies of France.
“ They used to get what information they could
“ both of merchant-ships, and of the ships of
“ war that lay in the Downs, and upon that they
“ usually went over, and it happened that soon
“ after some of those ships were taken. These
“ men, as they were papists, so they behaved
“ themselves insolently, and boasted much of
“ their power and credit.

“ Complaints had been often made of them,
“ but they were always protected; nor did it ap-
“ pear that they ever brought any information of
“ importance to Harley but once, when, accord-
“ ing to what they swore, they told him, that
“ Fourbin was gone from Dunkirk, to lie in

114 NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

“ wait for the Russian fleet; which proved to be
 “ true: he both went to watch for them, and he
 “ took a great part of the fleet. Yet though this
 “ was the single piece of intelligence that they
 “ ever brought, Harley took so little notice of
 “ it, that he gave no advertisement to the admi-
 “ ralty concerning it. This particular excepted,
 “ they only brought over common news, and
 “ the Paris gazetteer. These examinations last-
 “ ed for some weeks: when they were ended, a
 “ full report was made of them to the house of
 “ lords, and they ordered the whole report, with
 “ all the examination, to be laid before the
 “ queen.”

Gregg was convicted on the statute of Edward the third, which declares it high treason “ to ad-
 “ here to the king’s enemies, or to give them aid
 “ either within or without the realm.”

Immediately after this conviction both houses of parliament petitioned the queen that he might be executed; and he was accordingly hanged at Tyburn, with Mortgridge, on the 29th of April, 1708.

Gregg at the place of execution delivered a paper to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in which he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, declared his sincere repentance of all his sins, particularly that lately committed against the queen, whose forgiveness he devoutly implored.

He likewise expressed his wish to make all possible reparation for the injuries he had done; begged pardon, in a particular manner, of Mr. Secretary Harley, and testified the perfect innocence of that gentleman, declaring that he was no way privy, directly or indirectly, to his writing to France. He professed that he died an
 unwor-

unworthy member of the Protestant church; and that the want of money to supply his extravagancies had tempted him to commit the fatal crime which cost him his life.

Gregg's ruling passion appears to have been ambition; but this was so blended with love of inordinate pleasures, that he was induced to have recourse to the most unwarrantable practices to supply his extravagancies. In both his public situations he was in the regular way to have advanced himself in the state: and prudence, vigilance, caution, and a strict adherence to the great rule of right, would, in all human probability, have gratified the favourite wish of his heart: but permitting himself to be seduced by the violence of his own passions, he deviated from the path of honour, and became an object of public punishment, and public contumely.

Gregg, acted likewise, against his own principles; for while he was corresponding with the enemy, and taking measures to subvert the government, he had no predilection in favour of the pretender. On the contrary, he declared, while he was under sentence of death, that "he never thought he had any right to the throne of these realms."

What strange insatiation appears in the conduct of this man! From his untimely fate may youth be taught that the only road to substantial honour and happiness, is through the path of virtue!

The youth who, led by wisdom's guiding hand,
Seeks virtue's temple and her law reveres,
He, he alone, in honour's doom shall stand,
Crown'd with rewards, and rais'd above his peers:
Th' historian's annals shall record his name,
And give his virtues to immortal fame.

Account of the Conviction, Trial, and Execution
of DEBORAH CHURCHILL, as an accomplice in
Murder with Hunt.

DEBORAH CHURCHILL, whose fate gives rise to this narrative was born about the year 1678, in a village near Norwich. She had several children by her husband, Mr. Churchill, but her temper not being calculated to afford him domestic happiness, he repined at his situation, and destroyed himself by intoxication.

Deborah, after this event came to London, and being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a subsistence by her industry, she ran considerably in debt; and in order to extricate herself from her incumbrances, had recourse to a method which was formerly as common as it is unjust. Going to a public-house in Holborn, she saw a soldier, and asked if he would marry her. The man immediately answered in the affirmative, on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was instantly tied.

Mrs. Churchill, whose maiden name is unknown, having obtained a certificate of her marriage, enticed her husband to drink till he was quite inebriated, and then gave him the slip, happy in this contrivance to screen herself from an arrest.

A little after this, she cohabited with a young fellow named Hunt, with whom she lived more than six years. Hunt appears to have been a youth of a rakish disposition. He behaved very ill to this unhappy woman, who, however, loved him to distraction; and at length forfeited her life in consequence of the regard that she had for him.

DEBORAH CHURCHILL—*for Murder.* 117

One night as Mr. Hunt and one of his associates were returning from the Theatre, in company with Mrs. Churchill, that a quarrel arose between the men, who immediately drew their swords; while Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the safety of Hunt, interposed, and kept his antagonist at a distance, in consequence of which he received a wound, of which he died almost immediately.

No sooner was the murder committed than Hunt effected his escape, and eluding his pursuers, arrived safely in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was apprehended on the spot, and being taken before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate.

November 1708, at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, Mrs. Churchill was indicted as an accomplice on the act of the first year of king James the first, called the statute of stabbing, by which it is enacted, that “If any one stabs another, who
“hath not at that time a weapon drawn, or hath
“not first stricken the party who stabs, is deemed
“guilty of murder, if the person stabbed die
“within six months afterwards.”

Mrs. Churchill being convicted, pleaded a state of pregnancy, in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons being impannelled, declared that they were ignorant whether she was with child or not. Hereupon the court, willing to allow all reasonable time in a case of this nature, respited judgment for six months, at the end of which time she received sentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being pregnant.

This woman's behaviour was extremely penitent; but she denied her guilt to the last moment of her life, having no conception that she had committed murder, because she did not herself stab the deceased.

She

She was hanged at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1708.

The following lessons of instruction may be derived from the fatal end of this woman. Her unhappy temper induced her first husband to have recourse to strong liquors, which killed him. Hence let married women learn to keep a guard on their tempers, and always to meet their husbands with smiles of complacency and good nature. Marriage is either a heaven or a hell upon earth, according to the mutual behaviour of the parties.

The unworthy attachment to Hunt, is a strong proof of the capriciousness of the female mind; but she is only one instance among thousands of a woman proving a bad wife, and entertaining an affection for a man no way worthy her regard. We wish, for the honour of the fair sex, that these instances may daily decrease: that female virtue may triumph through the land, and that every departure from it may be deemed as criminal in the eyes of the sex in general, as it undoubtedly is in the sight of heaven. It should be seriously remembered, by every woman, that "matriage is honourable, and the bed undefiled."

Life, Character, and Execution of CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD, for the Murder of JANE YOUNG, for which he had been before acquitted.

CHRISTOPHER STRAUGHTERFORD was the son of a miller at Westbury-Green, in Surry, who apprenticed him at Godalbin, and when

C. SLAUGHTERFORD—*for Murder.* 119

when his time was expired, he lived in several situations, and afterwards took a malt-house at Shalford, when his aunt became his house keeper, and he acquired a moderate sum of money by his industry.

Slaughterford now paid his addresses to Jane Young, and it was generally supposed he intended to marry her. The last time he was seen in her company was on the evening of the 5th of October, 1768, from which day she was not heard of for a considerable time, on which suspicions arose that Slaughterford had murdered her.

In about a month afterwards the body of the unfortunate girl was found in a pond, with several marks of violence on it; and the public suspicion being still fixed on Slaughterford, he voluntarily surrendered himself to two justices of the peace, who directed that he should be discharged: but as he was still accused by his neighbours, he went to a third magistrate, who committed him to the marshalsea, in consequence of which he was tried at the next assizes at Kingston, and acquitted.

All the neighbours, however, still insisted that he was guilty, and prevailed on the relations of the deceased to bring an appeal for a new trial; and many persons subscribed towards the expence of it accordingly.

He was tried the next term, by a Surry jury, in the Court of Queen's-Bench, before Chief Justice Holt, the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother and heir to the deceased.

An appeal after an acquittal on charge of murder is somewhat singular; and it ought to be done with the utmost caution, because after conviction on an appeal, the king has no power to pardon.

The

The same evidence was given on the second trial as on the first; yet so different were the sentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received sentence of death.

It may be proper to mention the heads of some of the depositions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

One Elizabeth Chapman, the mistress of Jane Young, deposed, that when the young woman left her service, she said she was going to be married to the prisoner, that she had purchased new cloaths on the occasion, and declared she was to meet him on the Sunday following: That this deponent some time afterwards enquired after Jane Young, and asking if she was married, was informed that she had been seen in the company of Slaughterford, but no one could tell what was become of her since, and that he himself pretended he knew nothing of her, but thought she had been at home with Mrs. Chapman: which induced this deponent to believe that some mischief had befallen her.

It was proved by other witnesses, that Jane Young was in company with the prisoner; on the night that the murder was committed; and one man swore that, at three in the morning he met a man and a woman on a common, about a quarter of a mile from the place where the body was found; that the man wore light-coloured cloaths (as it was proved the prisoner had done the preceding day;) and that soon after he passed them he heard a shrieking, like the voice of a woman.

Another woman also deposed, that, after the deceased was missing, she asked Slaughterford what was become of his whore; to which he replied, "I have put her off: do you know of any girl that"

“ that has any money your way? I have got the
 “ way of putting them off now.”

It was depoted by another woman, that before the discovery of the murder, she said to Mr. Slaughterford, “ What if Jane Young should lay
 “ such a child to you as mine is here?” at which he sighed, and said, “ It is now impossible :” and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks.

In contradiction to this, the aunt of Mr. Slaughterford, and a young lad who lived in the house, depoted that the prisoner lay at home on the night that the murder was committed

Slaughterford, from the time of conviction to the very hour of his death, solemnly declared his innocence ; and though visited by several divines, who urged him, by all possible arguments, to confess the fact, yet he still persisted that he was not guilty. He was respited from the Wednesday till Saturday, in which interim he desired to see Mr. Woodroff, a minister of Guildford ; from which it was thought he would make a confession ; but what he said to him tended only to confirm his former declarations.

This unfortunate man was hanged at Guildford on the 9th of July, 1709, and, as soon as the executioner had tied him up, threw himself off, having first delivered to the sheriff a paper containing the following solemn declaration :

Guildford, July 9, 1709.

“ Being brought here to die, according to the
 “ sentence passed upon me at the Queen’s Bench
 “ Bar, for a crime of which I am wholly inno-
 “ cent, I thought myself obliged to let the
 “ world know, that they may not reflect on my
 “ friends and relations, whom I have left behind
 “ me much troubled for my fatal end, that I
 “ know

“ know nothing of the death of Mrs. Jane Young,
 “ nor how she came by her death, directly or in-
 “ directly, though some have pleased to cast re-
 “ flections on my aunt. However, I freely for-
 “ give all my enemies, and pray to God to give
 “ them a due sense of their errors, and in his
 “ due time to bring the truth to light. In the
 “ mean time I beg every one to forbear reflecting
 “ on my dear mother, or any of my relations,
 “ for my unjust and unhappy fall, since what I
 “ have here set down is truth, and nothing but
 “ the truth, as I expect salvation at the hands of
 “ Almighty God : but I am heartily sorry that I
 “ should be the cause of persuading her to leave
 “ her dame, which is all that troubles me. As
 “ witness my hand, this 9th day of July.”

Without doubt the case of Slaughterford is of
 a very extraordinary nature. We see that he sur-
 rendered himself to the justices when he might
 have ran away ; and common sense tells us that a
 murderer would endeavour to make his escape ; and
 we find him a second time surrendering himself, as
 if anxious to wipe away the stain on his character.
 We find him tried by a jury of his countrymen,
 and acquitted ; then again tried, on an appeal, by
 another jury of his neighbours, found guilty, con-
 demned and executed. Some of the depositions
 against him seem very striking, and the testimony
 in his favour is equally clear. There appears
 nothing in the former part of his life to impeach
 his character : there is no proof of any animosity
 between him and the party murdered ; he is vi-
 sited while under sentence of death, by a number
 of Divines ; yet he dies with the most sacred
 averment of his innocence.

It is difficult to judge ! He was evidently con-
 victed on circumstances only, strong as those cir-
 cumstances

cumstances appeared : and there have been many instances of innocent people suffering on circumstantial evidence. Charity, then, will incline one to believe that this man was innocent, and that his life fell a sacrifice to his neighbours' prejudices, perhaps laudable prejudices !

The conduct of the jury that acquitted, or of that which condemned him, is not to be censured. Human testimony is doubtful, and human judges are fallible ! But we should be taught one important lesson from the fate of this unhappy man. We should learn to reverence the decrees of that Providence which is above our finite comprehension, and to admire the justice of that God whose "ways are past finding out."

From the picture before us we should learn the certainty of a future state, when all mists shall be cleared from our eyes, and "hidden things shall be made plain !"

Narrative of the Life, Execution, &c. of GRACE TRIPP, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the Murder of Lord Torrington's Housekeeper.

GRACE TRIPP was a native of Barton in Lincolnshire, and after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country, she came to London, and having been in a reputable family some time, she procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington.

During her stay in this last service she got acquainted with a man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing Lord Torrington's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. Hereupon it

was concerted between them, that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all of the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town: but this housekeeper hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate; on which Peters seized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about thirty guineas with which, and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street door open.

This shocking murder and robbery became the general subject of conversation, and no steps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, and they were taken in a few days, when, Peters was admitted an evidence for the crown, for the sake of public justice.

Tripp, in consequence of his evidence, and many corroborating circumstances, was convicted, sentenced to die, and executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1710, at the age of 19 years.

While this unfortunate woman lay under sentence of death, she entertained an idea that she ought not to suffer, because she did not actually commit the murder with her own hands, but only stood by while the deed was perpetrated. She confessed that an ambition of being deemed a fine lady prevailed on her to admit Peters into the house, as she thought the stolen effects would produce sufficient to dignify her with that title.

We may draw from the fate of this unhappy, deluded girl, two or three reflections which are not unworthy the notice of the public. In the first place, families that go out of town for the summer should never leave their plate in the care
of



Godfriden.

W. Lodge sculp.

The manner of BURNING a WOMAN convicted of Treason.



of one or two servants, particularly of the female sex; for this circumstance is at once an encouragement to robbers, and a temptation to servants themselves to betray their trust.

The admission of Peters an evidence against the girl, though he was clearly an offender of the first magnitude, should teach young people in general the danger of making unlawful connections; and the folly of trusting to the fidelity of a brother thief. In this particular case it was necessary that one of the parties should be an evidence, in order to convict the other; and Peters was undoubtedly pitched upon, to teach servants what an enormous crime it is to betray the trust reposed in them by their masters. We have seldom an instance of a servant convicted of robbing his or her master but they are severely punished; and indeed it is proper that the utmost rigour of the law should overtake such offenders.

This young woman's folly and credulity in listening to the addresses of a man who persuaded her to rob her master, is truly astonishing! From her sad example let all young women be taught, that there is no prospect of that person making a good husband, who is not first of all an HONEST MAN. Let them remember, that "the fear of the Lord" is the beginning wisdom."

Full Account of the Lives, Insurrections, and Execution of DANIEL DAMAREE and GEORGE PURCHASE, who were hanged at Tyburn for *High Treason*.

WHEN the whig ministry of queen Anne were turned out of, or, in the modern phrase, had resigned their places, the tory ministry

nistry who succeeded them encouraged a young divine named Henry Sacheverell to enflame the passions of the public by preaching against the settlement made at the revolution, and inculcating all those doctrines which were then held as the favourite tenets of what was called the high church party. Sacheverell was a man of abilities, and eminently possessed of those kind of talents which are calculated to inspire such sentiments as the preacher wished to impress his auditors with.

The public in general are well informed that Dr. Sacheverell's discourses tended to instigate the people against the house of Hanover, and to insinuate the right of the pretender to the throne of these realms. This caused such a general commotion that it became necessary to bring him to a trial in some way; and, contrary to all former practice respecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the house of peers, and was silenced for three years upon conviction.

But so excited were the passions of the populace in consequence of his insinuations, that they almost adored him as a prophet; and some of them were led to commit those outrages which gave rise to the following trials:

Two dissenting ministers, Messieurs Bradbury and Burges, having made themselves conspicuous by preaching in behalf of the revolution settlement, and freedom of sentiment in matters of religion, became the immediate objects of the resentment of the mob. What arose in consequence hereof will appear from the following abstract of the trials of the criminals before us:

Daniel Damaree on the 19th of April, 1710, was indicted for being concerned with a multitude of men, to the number of five hundred, armed with swords and clubs, to levy war against the queen.

A gen-

A gentleman deposed, that “going through the Temple, he saw some thousands of people, who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Westminster-Hall : that some of them said they would pull down Dr. Burgefs’s meeting-house that night :” Others differed as to the time of doing it, but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-house was demolished on the following night.

Captain Orril swore that on the first of March, hearing that “the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgefs’s meeting-house, he resolved to go among them, to do what service he could to government, by making discoveries.”

Captain Orril going to Mr. Bradbury’s meeting, found the people plundering it, who obliged him to pull off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln’s-Inn-Fields, where he saw a bonfire made of some of the materials of Dr. Burgefs’s meeting-house, and saw the prisoner, who twirled his hat, and said “D—n it, I will lead you on ; G—d d—n me, we will have all the meeting-houses down ; high church and Sacheverell, huzza !”

It was proved by another evidence that the prisoner headed part of the mob, some of whom proposed to go to the meeting-house in Wild-street ; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury-Lane, “saying that meeting-house was worth ten of that in Wiid-street.”

Joseph Collier swore that he saw the prisoner carry a brass sconce from Dr. Burgefs’s meeting-house, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln’s-Inn-Fields, huzzaing, and crying “High church and Sacheverell.” There was another evidence to prove the concern that the prisoner had in these illegal acts ; and several persons appeared in his behalf ; but as in their testimony, they

they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence: but brought in a special verdict.

George Purchase was indicted for levying war against the queen, &c. in the same manner that Damaree had been. On this trial captain Orril deposed, that after seeing Dr. Burgefs's meeting-house demolished, and a fire made in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields with some of the materials thereof, he met a party of the guards, whom he directed to go to Drury-Lane, where a bonfire was made of the pews, and other utensils; and that there was a great mob, which was dispersed by the guards: that the prisoner was very active pushing at the breasts of the horses with a drawn sword: that this evidence asked what he meant, telling him that in opposing the guard he opposed the queen, and would have persuaded him to put up his sword, and go home; but instead of taking this advice, he replied, "D—n you, who are you? for High Church and Sacheverell or no? I am, G—d
"d—n them all," meaning the guards, "for I am as good a man as any of them all:" that he then called to the mob "Come on, come on boys; I'll lead you on, I am for High Church and Sacheverell, and I'll lose my life in the cause."

The Captain farther deposed, that after this the prisoner ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made a full pass at the officer who commanded the guards; and if one of the guards had not given a spring and beat down his sword, he would have run the officer through the left flank: that the prisoner now retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time dispersed the mob, having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action.

Richard

Richard Ruffel, one of the guards, deposed, that they were ordered by the serjeant to march into Drury-Lane, and to return their bayonets and draw their swords: that when they came to Drury-Lane, there was a bonfire with a large mob about it; that near the fire the horse were all drawn up into one line, with their tails against the wall, that none of the mob might come behind: that the prisoner then stood in the middle of the lane, huzzaing, and came up, and would have thrust himself between the horses; but the guards beat him off with the flats of their swords.

The prisoner produced some witnesses; but as what they said did not contradict the testimony of the evidences against him, their depositions had no weight. The jury were satisfied with the proofs that had arisen: but having a doubt respecting the points of law, they brought in a special verdict.

At the same time and place Francis Willis was tried for assisting in demolishing the meeting-house of Mr. Bradbury in Fetter-Lane, and burning the materials at a bonfire in Holborn; but was acquitted for want of sufficient evidence against him.

The verdicts respecting Damaree and Purchase being left special, their cases were argued in the court of King's-Bench in Westminster-Hall, the following term, before the lord chief justice Parker and the other judges; when though every artifice in the law was made use of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 15th of June 1710.

From the fate of these unhappy men we may
 VOL. I. No. 4 R learn

learn the extreme folly of the lower orders of people interesting themselves in religious and political disputes. These offenders were watermen to the queen ; but their loyalty to their sovereign and a proper regard to themselves, equally called on them to discharge the duties of their station with punctuality, and to leave the management of the church and state to those to whom they immediately belonged.

It is well known that towards the close of the reign of queen Anne, political disputes were carried to a very unusual height in this kingdom. The body of the people were divided into two great factions, known by the names of High Church and Low Church : but though the church was the word, religion was almost out of the question ; and the principle object of dispute was of a political kind. The question was, whether the house of HANOVER, or the family of STUART, should sway the sceptre of these kingdoms. But it is astonishing to think that, even at that period, any son of the church of England could be so deluded as to think that a catholic prince, of an obnoxious family, proscribed by the laws of the land could be a proper sovereign for a protestant people. The supposition carries absurdity in the face of it ; yet such was the violence of the passions of the people, that the pretender had nearly half as many friends in the kingdom as the rightful heir to the throne.

With regard to the malefactors in question, their offence was of the most atrocious nature. Every man has an equal right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. It was therefore in a high degree, criminal to demolish

RICH. THORNHILL, Esq.—for *Murder*. 131

molish the meeting-houses of the dissenting ministers. We should have no more spleen against a man for differing from us in religious sentiments, than for being taller, or shorter, or of a different complexion from ourselves. It was a wise saying of a celebrated writer, that “I would no more
“ quarrel with a man for his differing in senti-
“ ment from me, than I would for the colour of
“ his eye-brows.”

The operations of the mind, being free by nature, ought to be allowed the most unlimited scope. A good Protestant will not quarrel with a Roman Catholic for the peculiarities of his worship: he will only pity him for those parts of it which he thinks absurd, and endeavour to regulate his own worship by what he deems a purer standard.

Upon the whole, the fate of these malefactors ought to teach us obedience to our superiors, love to our neighbours, and duty to our God. There can be no peace of mind expected by those who do not live in the discharge of their duty; while those who perform it may reasonably hope for the serene comforts of a good conscience in this world, and console themselves with the hope of immortal happiness in the next.

Account of RICHARD THORNHILL, Esq.
who was tried for the *Murder* of Sir CHOL-
MONDELEY DEERING in a Duel, and
found guilty of *Man slaughter*.

SIR CHOLMONDELEY DEERING and
Mr. Thornhill were intimate acquaintance,
and had dined together, on the 7th of April,

1711, in company with several other gentlemen, at the Toy, at Hampton-Court, where a quarrel arose which occasioned the unhappy catastrophe that afterwards happened.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley struck Mr. Thornhill, and a scuffle ensuing, the wainscot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other stamped on him, and beat out some of his teeth. The company now interposing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to ask pardon: but Mr. Thornhill said that asking pardon was not a proper retaliation for the injury that he had received; adding "Sir Cholmondeley, you know where to find me." Soon after this the company broke up, and the prisoners went home in different coaches, without any farther steps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April Sir Cholmondeley went to the Coffee-house at Kensington, and asked for Mr. Thornhill, who on not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the servant shewed him to the dining-room, to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands, and soon afterwards Mr. Thornhill coming to him, asked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill-Fields, and there advanced towards each other in a resolute manner, and fired their pistols almost in the same moment.

Sir Cholmondeley being mortally wounded, fell to the ground; and Mr. Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy catastrophe, was going away, when a person stopped him, told him he had been guilty of murder, and took him before
a jus-

RICH. THORNHILL, Esq.—for *Murder*. 133
a justice of the peace, who committed him to prison.

On the 18th of May 1711, Richard Thornhill, Esq. was indicted at the Old-Bailey sessions for this murder. In the course of the trial the above-recited facts were proved, and a letter was produced, of which the following is a copy.

S I R,

April 8th, 1711.

“ I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morning, and desire you will give me a meeting with your sword and pistols, which I insist on. The worthy gentleman who brings you this, will concert with you the time and place. I think Tothill-Fields will do well; Hyde-Park will not, at this time of the year, being full of company.

I am,

Your humble Servant,
RICHARD THORNHILL.”

Mr. Thornhill's servant swore that he believed this letter to be his master's hand-writing; but Mr Thornhill hoped the jury would not pay any regard to this testimony, as the boy had acknowledged in court that he never saw him write.

Mr. Thornhill called several witnesses to prove how ill he had been used by Sir Cholmondeley: that he had languished some time of the wounds he had received, during which he could take no other sustenance than liquids, and that his life was in imminent danger.

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr. Thornhill was of a peaceable disposition, and that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a remarkably quarrelsome temper. On behalf of
Mr.

Mr. Thornhill it was farther deposed, that Sir Cholmondeley being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair ulage, he replied "No: poor Thornhill! I am sorry for him; this misfortune was my own fault, and of my own seeking: I heartily forgive him, and desire you all to take notice of it, that it may be of some service to him; and that one misfortune may not occasion another."

The jury acquitted Mr. Thornhill of the murder; but found him guilty of manslaughter, in consequence of which he was burnt in the hand.

Of all the vices which disgrace our age and nation that of duelling is one of the most ridiculous, absurd and criminal. Ridiculous, as it is a compliance with a custom that would plead fashion in violation of the laws of our country; absurd, as it produces no test by which to determine on the merits of the point in dispute: for the aggrieved is equally liable to fall with the aggressor; and criminal, (criminal indeed in the highest degree!) as it arises from pre-determined murder on each side. Gentlemen talk of the dignity of honour, and the sacredness of character, without reflecting that there can be no honour in deliberate murder, no purity of character in a murderer!

The man who sends a challenge to another, does but say, in other words, "I am a professed murderer. I mean to send you into the other world, with all your imperfections on your head.—But I am a man of honour—though I will not take a purse, I will cut a throat. I will do every thing in my power to deprive you of life, and to make your friends and relations wretched for life. If I fall by your hands, my friends will be equally miserable:—but no matter

“ matter—the laws of honour demand that we
 “ should be murderers, and we are both too wise
 “ to obey the laws of our God.”

Horrid practice! disgraceful to our country, and equally contrary to all Divine and human institutions!—It is to be hoped the time will come when the legislature shall decree that every man who is base enough to send a challenge shall be doomed to suffer death as a murderer. Let no fear be entertained that this can derogate from our national character of genuine courage. Nothing is more true than the observation of the poet, that

Cowards are cruel, but the brave
 Love mercy, and delight to save.

Account of ELIZABETH MASON, who was
 hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Poisoning her Mistress*.

ELIZABETH MASON was born at Melton-Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scoles, who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived till she was apprehended for the commission of the crime for which her life paid the forfeit.

This girl, who was employed in household work, having conceived an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses, on their death, came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison. On

On Thursday in Easter-week, Mason being sent of an errand, she went to a druggist's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenick, on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scoles drank, and soon afterwards finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies.

Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her; in consequence of which she went again to the same shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenick, which she put into some water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast on the following morning.

As it happened that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside some time to cool, during which time most of the arsenick sunk to the bottom. Having drank some of it, she found herself very ill; and observing the sediment at the bottom of the basin, she sent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled.

Unfavourable suspicions now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate.

On the 6th of June 1712, she was indicted for the murder of Jane Scoles, by mixing yellow arsenick with her coffee; and pleading guilty to the indictment, she received sentence of death; in consequence of which she was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of June 1712.

While

While she lay under sentence of death, the ordinary of Newgate asked if she had any lover, or other person, who had tempted her to the commission of the crime: to which she answered in the negative; but owned that she had frequently defrauded her mistresses of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which she had been guilty.

At the time of her execution she warned other young people to beware of crimes similar to those which had brought her to that fatal end, and confessed the justice of the sentence which made her a public example.

Young people should be taught, from the deplorable fate of this unhappy girl, to learn a due obedience to their superiors in general; and particularly to guard against the first impulses of pride, ambition, and avarice: for it was the expectation of possessing the fortune of her mistresses at their death, that tempted this young creature to think of removing them, by the commission of the horrid sin of murder!

In the discovery of this affair the intervention of Providence obviously appears. If the gruel, prepared for Mrs. Cholwell, had not been too hot for use, she would probably have eaten freely of it, and, in consequence, have lost her life.

In the case of this malefactor we see, in a striking light, the fatal consequences of lying; for if, after she had first defrauded her mistresses, she had possessed grace sufficient to have acknowledged her crime, she would probably have been forgiven, and her repentance would have secured her peace of mind during her future life: but the concealing her faults by lying naturally led her to the commission of greater crimes, which

ended in her final destruction. Of all crimes, lying is one of the meanest; and ought to be studiously avoided, by those who wish to be happy in this world or the next. Very true is the observation of the poet:

But lyars we can never trust,
 Tho' they should speak the thing that's true:
 And he that does one fault at first,
 And lyes to hide it, makes it two.

Account of ELIZABETH CHIVERS, who was hanged for murdering her Bastard Child.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July, 1712, Elizabeth Chivers was indicted for the wilful murder of her female bastard child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond; and, pleading guilty, she received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the first of August following.

This unhappy woman was a native of Spitalfields, but lived at Stepney at the time of the commission of the murder. The account she gave of herself after she was under sentence of death was as follows; She said, that her father dying, while she was very young, left her in indigent circumstances, which obliged her to go to service when she was only fourteen years of age; that she lived in several reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable.

When she arrived at almost the age of thirty years, she lived with one Mr. Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him, in consequence of which she bore the child which she afterwards murdered.

Finding

Finling herself pregnant, she removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where she remained about six weeks, and then took private lodgings, in which she was delivered of a girl, who was baptised by the name of Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeable to his promise, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward discovering her habitation, exposed her in the neighbourhood, so that she was ashamed to make her appearance.

Enraged by this circumstance, she was tempted to destroy her child: on which she took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney; but some people near the spot happening to see what passed, took her into custody, and carried her before a magistrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that she remained in this gloomy prison, her mind seemed to be tortured with the most agonizing pains, on account of the horrid crimes of which she had been guilty: and she expressed a sense of her torments in the following striking words, which she spoke to a clergyman who attended her: " Oh, sir! I am lost! I cannot pray, I cannot repent; my sin is too great to be pardoned! I did commit it with deliberation and choice, and in cold blood: I was not driven to it by necessity. The father had all the while provided for me, and for the child, and would have done so still, had not I destroyed the child, and thereby sought my own destruction."

It is very remarkable of this woman, that she was near thirty years of age before she was debauched; and, previous to that time her character was unimpeached.—Hence let young women learn the importance of chastity; and consider

how very little they have to depend on, when the character is once gone. Let men, likewise, be taught to reflect what a horrid crime seduction is; and that when once they tempt a young woman to violate her chastity, they are only leading her to the brink of inevitable destruction.

The terrors of conscience this poor creature underwent appear to have been of the most dreadful kind, and afford us a shocking idea of the consequences resulting from the crime of murder. What a deplorable state must that wretch be in, who despairs to so great a degree as to be unable to repent! May God, in his mercy, grant that none of the readers of this work may ever have occasion to repent of a crime so shocking as murder. Nature revolts at the idea of so enormous an offence; but we know not to what lengths our passions may lead us. Let us, therefore, constantly pray that we may not be “led into temptation;” and, “let him that standeth take heed lest he fall.”

Account of the Trial of Col. JOHN HAMILTON, for the *Murder* of CHARLES Lord MOHUN, and JAMES Duke of HAMILTON and BRANDON.

JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. of St. Martin's in the Fields, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th of September, 1712, for the murder of Charles Lord Mohun, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 15th of November preceding: and at the same time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mohun, and George Macartney, Esq. in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton,

Hamilton and Brandon: and having pleaded "not guilty" to these indictments, the evidences proceeded to give their testimony in substance as follows:

Rice Williams, footman to Lord Mohun, proved that his master having met the duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a master in chancery, on Thursday the 13th of November, a misunderstanding arose between them respecting the testimony of an evidence. That when his lord came home at night, he ordered that no person should be admitted to speak with him the next morning except Mr. Macartney. That on the Saturday morning about seven o'clock this evidence, having some suspicion that mischief would ensue, went towards Hyde-Park, and seeing the duke of Hamilton's coach going that way, he got over the park-wall; but just as he arrived at the place where the duelists were engaged, he saw both the noble men fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the seconds. One of whom he knew to be Mr. Macartney, and the other (but he could not swear it was the prisoner) said "We have made a fine piece of work of it."

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceased noblemen and their seconds had been at those taverns: and, from what could be collected from their behaviour, it appeared that a quarrel had taken place, and that a duel was in agitation; and some of the duke's servants and other witnesses deposed to a variety of particulars, all which tended to the same conclusion.

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed that "as he was walking his horses towards Hyde-Park, he followed a hackney coach with two gentlemen in it, whom he saw alight by the

“ the lodge, and walk together towards the left
 “ part of the ring, where they were about a
 “ quarter of an hour, when he saw two other
 “ gentlemen come to them; that after having
 “ saluted each other, one of them, who he is
 “ since told was the duke of Hamilton, threw off
 “ his cloak, and one of the other two, who he
 “ now understands was lord Mohun, his furtout
 “ coat, and all immediately drew; that the duke
 “ and lord pushed at each other but a very little
 “ while, when the duke cloted, and took the
 “ lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned,
 “ and the duke fell upon him: that just as lord
 “ Mohun was dropping, he saw him lay hold of
 “ the duke’s sword, but could not tell whether
 “ the sword was at that time in his body; nor
 “ did he see any wound given after the closing,
 “ and was sure lord Mohun did not shorten his
 “ sword. He declared he did not see the seconds
 “ fight, but they had their swords in their hands,
 “ assisting the lords.”

Paul Bouffier, a surgeon, swore that on opening the body of the duke of Hamilton he found a wound between the second and third rib, which entered into the body, inclining to the right side, which could not be given but by some push from above.

Henry Amy, a surgeon, swore that he found the duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg, a small one in his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth in his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; but that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death;

and

and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further deposed, that he also viewed the lord Mohun's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound about four inches wide in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side, and that the fingers of his left hand were cut.

The defence made by the prisoner was, that "the duke called him to go abroad with him, but he knew not any thing of the matter till he came into the field"

Some Scottish noblemen, and other gentlemen of rank, gave Mr. Hamilton a very advantageous character, asserting that he was brave, honest, and inoffensive: and the jury having considered of the affair, gave a verdict of "murder," in consequence of which the prisoner prayed the benefit of the statute, which was allowed him.

At the time the lives of the above-mentioned noblemen were thus unfortunately sacrificed, many persons thought they fell by the hands of the seconds: and some late writers on the subject have affected to be of the same opinion: but nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the transaction, nor did any thing arise on the trial, to warrant so ungenerous a suspicion; it is therefore but justice to the memory of all the parties to discredit such insinuations.

But here a reflection will naturally arise, that we hope may be of service to our readers of superior rank. If all duellists are, as common sense seems

seems to intimate, MURDERERS, in what light are we to consider their seconds? Certainly in no other than as accessaries before the fact. The law says, and with great justice, that accessaries in case of murder shall be deemed principals.

With regard to the particular case in question, if we believe the plea of the prisoner, we cannot consider him as an accessory, because he was ignorant of the intention of the duke.

Be this as it may, it is much to be lamented that we have not laws of force sufficient to put an effectual stop to the horrid practice of duelling: a practice which had its rise in the ferocious manners of the most barbarous ages, and is a disgrace to any people who pretends to be polished or refined. Honour is made the vile pretence, and murder, real or intended, is always the consequence.

Men ought to consider that their great Creator has entrusted them with life for more valuable purposes than to put it to the hazard on every frivolous occasion. One would imagine that the reflection of a moment would teach any man in his senses that the determination to rush into the presence of his maker with the crime of murder on his head was sufficient to ensure his perdition!

Happy are those who have been thus tempted to embrue their hands in the blood of their fellow creatures, if they escape the murdering sword or pistol, and have time allotted them to repent of their misdeeds; and surely a whole life of penitence is short enough to atone for the intentional murder of a fellow-creature!

Account of WILLIAM JOHNSON, and JANE HOUSDEN, who were hanged for the *Murder* of the Turnkey of Newgate.

WE insert this narrative on account of its singularity, as it may not happen that another case of the kind shall ever occur.

William Johnson was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and removing to London opened a shop in Newport-Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house in Long Acre, and commenced corn-chandler; but in this business he was likewise unsuccessful, on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a public house near Christ-Church in Surry.

In the business of a victualler, he was as unsuccessful as in his former professions; on which he failed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison: so that he appears to have possessed a genius turned to a variety of employments.

Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon, not long before the perpetration of the murder which cost him his life,

Johnson had been formerly acquainted with one Jane Housden, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon (which was procured by great influence,) before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the

day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old-Bailey, Johnson called to see her: but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not see her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol, and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the court, and all the persons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Housden, at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this horrid murder.

The event had no sooner happened, than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death.

From this time to that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; nay, though there were so many witnesses to the fact, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives; nor did they shew any signs of compunction for their former sins.

On the 19th of September, 1712, they were executed opposite the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, after which Johnson was hanged in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

There is something so extraordinary in the case of these malefactors that one is almost at a loss what judgment to form of the enormity of their guilt. Johnson had been capitally convicted, and received a free pardon: and Housden had experienced a like effect of the royal mercy. What then shall we think of the man committing a daring murder in such a place, and on so solemn



Todd's son?

Scott's son?

W^m. JOHNSON shooting M^r. SPURLING, head Turnkey
of Newgate, while Jane Housden (then going to Trial)
stands by encouraging him.

an occasion, and of the woman, in circumstances so calamitous as hers, encouraging him in the perpetration of so horrid a crime? A crime, that the slightest reflection would have told them must necessarily be punished in an exemplary manner. To escape was impossible :—to commit the crime then, argued a folly as well as baseness that is, perhaps, without example.

The turnkey was doing no more than discharging the duties of his office, and had not given the least provocation to the parties for the horrid murder that ensued.

Their behaviour under sentence of death evinces to what a shocking degree their minds must have been hardened; and, upon the whole, the instance before us affords a proof that the human heart is “ corrupt above all things, and desperately wicked.”

Account of RICHARD TOWN, who was Executed for *Defrauding his Creditors* under a Commission of *Bankruptcy*.

IN September, 1712, Richard Town was indicted at the Old Bailey for withdrawing himself from his creditors after a commission of bankrupt issued against him, and for removing and fraudulently carrying away fifteen tons of tallow, valued at 400*l.* and 400*l.* in money, with his debt-books, and books of accounts, with intention to defraud his creditors.

Having pleaded not guilty to the indictment the council informed the jury that the act of parliament had expressly declared that “ if any person, being a bankrupt, after the month of

“ April, 1707, did fraudulently conceal, embezzle, or make away with goods or money to the value of 20l. he should be deemed guilty of felony.”

A number of witnesses were now called to prove his being a regular trader, and to make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy; but the principal of these was Mr. Hodgson, who deposed that being sent after the prisoner by the commissioners of bankrupt, he apprehended him at Sandwich, and searching him by virtue of his warrant, found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and about five pound seven shillings and sixpence in silver; and that he had three gold rings on his fingers: that he took from him the gold, and five pounds in silver, and left him the odd silver.

Town had intended to sail in a ship which was bound to Amsterdam; but being too late he went on board a packet-boat bound to Ostend, but being taken sea-sick, he went to the side of the vessel, and stooping down, dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea.

A storm arising at sea, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich, in consequence of which Town was apprehended by Hodgson, as above mentioned.

When Town was examined before the commissioners he acknowledged that he had ordered Thomas Norris to carry off his books of accounts, plate, and papers of value, and likewise to convey away a large quantity of tallow, which he supposed was then arrived in Holland,

Now the council for Town insisted that, as Norris was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both; and that he could not legally be con-

convicted till the other (who was then abroad) could be apprehended, and tried with him. But in order to frustrate this argument, it was proved that Town had shipped off large quantities of goods on his own account: besides, the circumstance of his being taken at Sandwich by Mr. Hodgson, with more than twenty pounds of his creditors money in his possession, was a sufficient proof of his guilt; wherefore the jury did not hesitate on his case, and he received sentence of death.

This unhappy man was a native of the county of Oxford, and for some time had carried on a considerable business as a tallow chandler with great reputation; but it appears too evident that he had formed a design of defrauding his creditors; because, at the time of his absconding, he had considerable property in the funds, and was otherwise in good circumstances.

Before his conviction he was indulged with a chamber to himself in the press-yard: but after sentence was passed on him he was put into the condemned hole, with the other prisoners: but here he caught a violent cold, which brought on a deafness, a disorder to which he had been subject; wherefore, on complaining of this circumstance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under sentence of death he refused to acknowledge the justice of his sentence, declaring that a person whom he had relieved, and preserved from ruin, had occasioned his destruction. He attended the devotions of the place, declared that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would likewise forgive them.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23rd of December, 1712, being exactly forty-one years
of

of age on that day: a circumstance that he remarked to the Ordinary, on his way to the fatal tree,

Mr. Town was the first person who suffered on the act which made it felony for a bankrupt to conceal the value of 20l. or upwards. It is the fate of many an honest man to become a bankrupt, and it is but too common for the unfeeling world to brand all bankrupts with the general name of villain: but, we hope, for the honour of human nature, that this name is not deserved once where it is applied a thousand times.

It has been the misfortune of some of the worthiest men we have ever known to become bankrupts. On the contrary, many of the most contemptible of the human race have been successful traders, and, in the language of the city, have been "good men." Undoubtedly there have been fraudulent bankruptcies; but, comparatively speaking, we believe very few. We have not many instances of traders flourishing in a great degree, after a bankruptcy: and what man would wish, if it were in his power, to meet the public contempt and derision, for the sake of embezzling a few paltry hundred pounds, and this too, at the hazard of his life?

With regard to the particular instance before us, we see a strong proof of the wisdom and justice of Providence, in preventing this offender from making his escape; in the first place, by the ship being failed, and in the second, by the packet boat being obliged to put back, through stress of weather.

Hence let all who are tempted to commit crimes of a similar, or of any other nature, learn that they can never escape the sight of a just God, who ruleth the world in righteousness.

Account

Account of RICHARD NOBLE, Attorney at Law, who Suffered for the Murder of JOHN SAYER, Esq. With some Particulars of the Amours of Mr. NOBLE, and Mrs. SAYER.

THERE is something so singular in the case before us, that the reader will be glad to have the particulars of an affair that made much noise in the world at the time it happened, and will be remembered to future ages.

John Sayer, Esq. was possessed of about 1000l. a year, and was lord of the Manor of Biddleston, in Buckinghamshire. He does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities; but was remarkable for his good nature and inoffensive disposition.

In 1699 he married Mary, the daughter of Admiral Nevil, a woman of an agreeable person and brilliant wit; but of such an abandoned disposition as to be a disgrace to her sex. Soon after this wedding, Colonel Salisbury married the admiral's widow; but there was such a vicious similarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter, that the two husbands had early occasion to be disgusted with the choice they had made.

Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that she would procure a lover, with whom she might enjoy those pleasures not to be found with her husband. Sayer, who was distractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience; and at the end of a twelve-month she bare him a daughter, which soon died: but he became still more fond of her after she had
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made him a father, and was continually loading her with presents.

Mr. Sayer now took a house in Lisle-street, Leicester-fields, kept a coach, and did every thing which he thought might gratify his wife: but so far from being influenced by this generous conduct, she declared that she would never again admit him to her bed. Irritated by this treatment he went among the women of the town, in consequence whereof he contracted a disorder that obliged him to have the advice of a surgeon: and his wife suspecting what had happened, he made no scruple to acknowledge the fact, and avow the occasion of it.

His health, however, was soon re established; on which his wife voluntarily admitted him to her bed: but the consequence was, that both the parties were soon afterwards indisposed. As the surgeon who had attended Mr. Sayer was a man of character, and professed himself ready to swear to the perfection of his cure, it was shrewdly suspected that the lady, having contracted the disorder, had given it to her husband, in order to criminate him in the opinion of his friends.

However this be, she affected to be greatly disgusted, again forbid him her bed, and consoled herself with the company of a colonel in the army. At times she behaved with more complaisance to her husband, who had, after a while, the honour of being deemed father of another child of which she was delivered; and after this circumstance she indulged herself in still greater liberties than before; her mother, who was almost constantly with her, encouraging her in this shameful prostitution of manners.

At length a scheme was concerted; which would probably have ended in the destruction of
Mr.

Mr. Sayer and Colonel Salisbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the prudence of the latter. The colonel taking an opportunity to represent to Mrs. Sayer the ill consequences that must attend her infidelity to her husband, she immediately attacked him with the most outrageous language, and insulted him to that degree that he threw the remains of a dish of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand satisfaction of the colonel.

The challenge is said to have been written by Mrs. Sayer, and when the colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. However, he obeyed the summons, and going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague-House, he addressed him as follows : “ Son Sayer, let us come
“ to a right understanding of this business. ’Tis
“ very well known that I am a swordsman, and I
“ should be very far from getting any honour by
“ killing you. But to come nearer to the point in
“ hand. Thou shouldst know Jack, for all the
“ world knows, that thy wife and mine are both
“ whores. They want to get rid of us at once.
“ If thou shouldst drop, they’ll have me hanged
“ for it after.” There was so much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force, and the gentlemen drove home together, to the great mortification of the ladies.

Soon after this affair Mrs. Sayer went to her house in Buckinghamshire, where an intimacy took place between her and the curate of the parish, and their amour was conducted with so little

reserve, that all the servants saw that the parson had more influence in the house than their master.

Mrs. Sayer coming to London, was soon followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which cost him his life. When he found that there was no hope of his recovery, he sent to Mr. Sayer, earnestly requesting to see him: but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, said that her mother had not had the small-pox, and such a visit might cost her her life; wherefore she insisted that her husband should not go; and the passive man tamely submitted to this injunction, though his wife daily sent a footman to enquire after the clergyman, who died without being visited by Mr. Sayer.

This gentleman had not been long dead before his place was supplied by an officer of the guards; but he was soon dismissed in favour of a man of great distinction, who presented her with some valuable china, which she pretended was won at Astrop-Wells.

About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs considerably deranged by his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman recommended to him Mr. Richard Noble, an attorney, as a man capable of being very serviceable to him.

Noble was the son of a man who kept a very reputable coffee house at Bath. His parents lived in great credit, and his mother was so virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her house with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and six, she shut the door against him. Noble had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, in which he afterwards took chambers for himself; but he had not been in any

considerable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer.

Noble had not been long acquainted with the family before he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report said true, with her mother likewise. However, these two abandoned women had other matters in prospect besides mere gallantry, and considering Noble as a man of business as well as a lover, they concerted a scheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a considerable part of his estate.

The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teased by the women, at length consented to execute a deed of separation, in which he assigned some lands in Buckinghamshire, to the amount of 150*l.* a year, to his wife, exclusive of 50*l.* a year for pin-money; and by this deed he likewise covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom she pleased, and that he would never molest any person on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even so weak as to sign this deed without having a council of his own to examine it.

Not long after this Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath: but that the husband might not take alarm at this circumstance, Noble sent him a letter, acquainting him that he was to be pricked down for high sheriff of Buckinghamshire; and Mrs. Salisbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and supplied him with some money on the occasion.

It does not seem probable that Sayer had any suspicion of Noble's criminal intercourse with his wife, for the night before he set out he presented him with a pair of saddle-pistols and furniture worth above 40*l.*

Soon after he was gone Mrs. Sayer's maid speaking of the danger her master might be in at

sea, the abandoned woman said "She should be
 " sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow,
 " should come to any harm; but she should be
 " glad, and earnestly wished that Mr. Sayer might
 " sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bot-
 " tom of the ship might come out."

Not long after Mr. Sayer was gone abroad, Noble began to give himself airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done. He was solicitor in a cause in the court of chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and having obtained a decree, he obliged the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee.

Mr. Sayer remained in Holland near a year, during which Noble publicly cohabited with his wife; and when her husband returned she refused to live with him; but having first robbed him of above 2000*l.* in exchequer bills and other effects, she went to private lodgings with Noble, soon after which she was delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her husband, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the news-papers, of which the following is a copy :

"Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq.
 " late of Lisle-street, St. Anns, went away from
 " her dwelling-house on or about the 23rd of May
 " last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to
 " the said Mary, and hath carried away near 1000*l.*
 " in money, besides other things of a considerable
 " value, and is supposed to go by some other
 " name: he desires all tradesmen and others not
 " to give her any credit, for that he will not pay
 " the same."

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble he was constantly supplied with money, but he was
 not

not her only associate at that time; for, during his occasional absence, she gratified herself with the company of other lovers.

Noble now procured an order from the court of chancery to take Mr. Sayer in execution for 400*l*. at the suit of Mrs. Salisbury, the consequence of a judgment confessed by him, for form's sake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than 70*l*. though artful management and legal expences had swelled it to the the above-mentioned sum.

Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Prison, and exhibited his bill in chancery for relief against these suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained; but before he had an opportunity of suing out judgment against Noble, the vengeance of heaven overtook that abandoned villain.

Mrs. Sayer finding herself liable to be exposed by the advertisement her husband had caused to be inserted in the news-papers, she, with her mother, and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of persons of desperate circumstances and abandoned dispositions.

Mr. Sayer was now informed that his wife had taken lodgings in the Mint, on which he wrote several letters to her, promising that he would forgive all her crimes, if she would return to her duty: but she treated his letters with as much contempt as she had done his person.

Hereupon he determined to seize on her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore obtained the warrant of a justice of the peace, and taking with him two constables,
and

and six assistants, went to the house of George Twyford in the Mint; the constables intimating that they had a warrant to search for a suspected person; for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger.

Having entered the house, they went to a back room, where Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury were at dinner; but the door was no sooner opened than Noble drew his sword, and stabbing Sayer in the left breast, he died on the spot. The constables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women; but the latter were so abandoned, that while the peace-officers were conveying them to the house of a magistrate, they did little else than lament the fate of Noble.

As it appeared as if the mob would rise, from an apprehension that the prisoners were debtors, a constable was directed to carry the bloody sword before them, in testimony that murder had been committed; which produced the wished for effect by keeping perfect peace.

The prisoners begged to send for council; which being granted, Noble was committed for trial, after an examination of two hours; but the council urged so many arguments in favour of the women, that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed. Soon afterwards this unworthy mother and daughter applied to the court of King's-Bench, to be admitted to bail; but this favour was refused them.

The coroner's inquest having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings within the rules of the Fleet in order for interment; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict, finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and assisted him in that murder.

On the evening of the 12th of March 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingston, in Surry, and having been arraigned on the several indictments, and pleaded not guilty, were told to prepare for their trials by six o'clock on the following morning.

Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that some material witnesses were absent: but the court not believing their allegations, refused to comply with their request. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the business at the nisi prius bar was dispatched, many of the jurymen might go home, so that when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a number left sufficient to try them, by which they might escape till the next assizes, by which time they hoped some circumstances would happen in their favour.

The trials being ordered to come on, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Salisbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five*; so that it was owing to the great number of jurors summoned by the sheriff, that the ends of public justice were not, for the present, defeated.

It will be unnecessary to recite the particulars of the evidence given on the trial, because those who have read the preceding narrative must be well apprized of its nature. Suffice it to say that
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* All persons indicted for felony have a right to challenge twenty jurors, and those indicted for petit-treason thirty-five. This may be done without alledging any cause.

the crime of the murder was clearly proved against Noble: however his council urged that some of the persons who broke into the house might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or, if they had not, the provocation he had received might be such as would warrant the jury in bringing him in guilty of manslaughter only.

As the court had sat from six o'clock in the morning, till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with some refreshment before they left the bar; and after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was "Guilty," and Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer were "Not guilty."

When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he made a speech, of which the following is a copy :

My Lord,

"I am soon to appear and render an account of my sins to God Almighty. If your lordship should think me guilty of those crimes I have been accused with, and convicted of by my jury, I am then sure your lordship will think that I stand in need of such a reparation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life, to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my soul.

If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your lordship, and too near my end

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to dissemble it before God. I know my lord the danger, the hell that I should plunge myself headlong into; I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am now about to say; before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning judge than your lordship; which is only in heaven; that I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer; by a thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws; or with impunity; and nothing was more distant from my thoughts; than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was suggested) without molestation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse; from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial; than I have had; though the prosecutors reported to the contrary; for which I heartily forgive them.

“ My council obliged me to say on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer’s voice before he broke open the door; I told them; as I now tell your lordship; that I did not know it was him; till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given; which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me; was so very slight, that it was a thousand to one that he died of it.

“ When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was so likely for him to have effected, viz. to have stabbed me: which are circumstances that manifest the greatness of my surprise.

“ When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear; the landlord telling me instantly thereupon, that the house was beset; either for me or himself, added to my confusion.

I then never thought or intended to do mischief, but first bolted the fore door, and then bolted and padlocked the back door, which was glazed, and began to fasten the shutters belonging to it; designing only to screen myself from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present: and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, than what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice; and I solemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased, till after the misfortune happened. It was my misfortune, that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice was turned to my disadvantage by the council against me, and that I was not intitled to any assistance of council to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given against me; which I don't doubt would have fully satisfied your lordship and the jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my design or intention.

“ If I had been able, under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the jury, that I was preparing myself, or putting myself in order to do mischief, which are acts of fore-thought and consideration, which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the house, to
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the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way.

“ I wish it had been my good fortune, that the jury had applied that to me which your lordship remarked in favour of the ladies, that the matter was so very sudden, so very accidental and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don’t remember your lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your lordship to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer’s coming there at that time, but on the contrary I fully proved to your lordship, that I went there upon another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceased; and I had no more time to think or contrive, than the ladies had to agree or consent. If any thing could be construed favourably on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had sometime before began, and was about finishing that day, might have taken away all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer.

“ Must it be thought, my lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparations to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady, and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the council against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in court; with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particular-

ly to Mr. Nott, to whom, but the day before the accident, I manifested my desire of having them live together again, and therefore, my lord, it should be presumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and not to revenge myself on, Mr. Sayer.

“ Your lordship, I hope, will observe so much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact in the opinion of the jury, that they sat up all night, and believing there was no malice at that time, told your lordship they intended, and were inclined to find it manslaughter, and, doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it special.

“ I hope this will touch your lordship’s heart so far, as not to think me so ill a man as to deserve (what the best of Christians are taught to pray against) a sudden death.

“ I confess I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence, and my endeavours therein having taken up my time, which I wish I had better employed: I beg leave to assure your lordship, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or suppress evidence were proved upon me, so they never sprang from me: and I can safely say, that my blood in a great measure will lie at their door that did, because it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myself by subornation of perjury.

“ I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour, as well as God, before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reason of my profession) of my clients in my hands, and who will suffer if they are not put into some order: and nothing but these two considerations could make life desirable, under this heavy load of irons, and restless remorse of conscience for my sins. A short reprieve for these purposes I hope will be agree-

agreeable to your lordship's humanity and Christian virtue, whereupon your lordship's name shall be blest with my last breath, for giving me an opportunity of making peace with my conscience and God Almighty."

The last request that Noble made was granted. He was allowed some time to settle his spiritual and temporal concerns, and at length was executed at Kingston on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance.

With regard to the women, they were no sooner acquitted than they set out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the assaults of the populace, who were incensed in the highest degree at the singular enormity of their crimes.

Little need be added, by way of reflection, to this long and interesting narrative. Those who do not see and abhor the extreme wickedness of these abandoned women; are not likely to be influenced by any arguments we can use. The situation of Mr. Sayer is pitiable in a high degree. He was distractedly fond of a woman who despised him; who despised every thing that bore but the semblance of virtue.

The fate of Noble was no other than what he merited by a long and obstinate perseverance in a course of vice and ingratitude: his baseness is almost unexampled. We hope the force of the following advice of the wise king Solomon will be felt by all our readers. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it; turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to FALL."

Account

Account of WILLIAM LOWTHER, and RICHARD KEELE, who were convicted of Murder, and hanged at Clerkenwell Green.

WILLIAM LOWTHER, was a native of Cumberland, and being bound to the master of a Newcastle ship which traded to London, became acquainted with some of that low and abandoned company which is always to be found in the metropolis.

Richard Keele was a native of Hampshire, and served his time to a barber in Winchester; and on coming to London, he married and settled in his own business in Rotherhithe; but not living happily with his wife, he parted from her, cohabited with another woman, and associated with a number of disorderly people, till the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

On the 10th of December, 1713, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for assisting Charles Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry.

The case was as follows. Houghton, one Cullum, and the Prisoners, having been convicted of felony at the Old Bailey, were sentenced to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell for two years. On their being carried thither, Mr. Boreman, the keeper, thought it necessary to put them in irons, to prevent their escape. This they all refused to submit to, and Boreman having ordered the irons, they broke into the room where the arms were deposited, which they seized, and then attacked the keeper and his assistants, whom they cruelly beat. Lowther bit off part of a man's nose. At this time Perry was without the gate, and desired the prisoners to be peaceable; but advancing towards them he was stabbed

WM. LOWTHER, &c.—for Murder. 167

bed by Houghton, and during the affray Houghton was shot dead.

The prisoners being at length victorious, many of them made their escape; but the neighbours giving their assistance, Keele and Lowther (and several others) were taken, and were convicted on the clearest evidence. Before the passing sentence, Keele endeavoured to extenuate his crime; but he was informed by the court that he must be deemed equally guilty with the rest of his companions, as he had opposed the keepers in the execution of their duty.

Some time after conviction a smith went to the prison to take measure of them for chains in which they were to be hung, pursuant to an order from the secretary of state's office; but they refused to let him do his duty.

On the morning of execution, being the 13th of December, 1713, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell Green, and there hanged on a gallows erected on the occasion; after which their bodies were put into a cart, drawn by four horses, decorated with plumes of black feathers; and were hung in chains on the day after their execution.

While these unhappy men lay under sentence of death, they appeared to have a due sense of the enormity of the crime of which they had been guilty, and made serious preparation for the important change they were to undergo: but at the place of execution Keele asked the undersheriff if they were to be hung in chains; when the answer given was, "Don't concern yourself about your body, but take care of your poor soul."

It is very remarkable that many unhappy convicts have been more anxious that their bodies should

should not hang in chains, than even for the preservation of life itself: such is the sense of shame which prevails in the minds of those whose crimes have been so atrocious, that one would conjecture they had been hardened beyond all idea of shame. What is the inference to be drawn from this fact? It seems evident that such is the corruption of the human heart, that men will commit those crimes without blushing, the slightest punishment of which they cannot bear the idea of: for surely the hanging in chains, after death, can scarcely be deemed a punishment. In fact, it is not intended as a punishment to the deceased; but a terror to the living: and it is a circumstance of the utmost disgrace, and the most mortifying to the human feelings, to be hung up between heaven and earth, as if unworthy of either; the sport of the winds, a prey for the birds of the air, and an object of pity, scorn and derision to their fellow creatures.

There is no saying to what lengths any man may proceed who once departs from the path of integrity. Many a person has been executed for murder, whose first crimes were of a very inferior nature: but vice is not only rapid, but greedy in its progress. It is like a snow ball rolled down a hill: its bulk encreases by its own swiftness.

Hence let the young and the thoughtless be taught to guard against the first approaches of vice: to shun the contamination of bad company, as they would a pestilence; and, in the Scripture phrase, to "fly from all appearance of evil."

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Account of HENRY PLUNKET, who was
hanged at Tyburn, for Murder.

HENRY PLUNKET, was a native of a place called Saar-Lewis, in the dutchy of Lorraine, and was the son of an Irish gentleman, who held the rank of Colonel in the French service, and was related to father Plunket, a priest, who was called the primate of Ireland, and came to a fatal end in the year 1679. Young Plunket was made a lieutenant when he was only ten years of age, and served under his father in Flanders, Germany, and Italy. He was remarkably distinguished for his courage, having never exhibited the least sign of fear in all the engagements in which he was concerned.

Having been a while at Ostend, he came over to England with a gentleman named Reynard, having fled from that place on account of having murdered a man.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Thomas Brown, by cutting his throat with a razor, on the 30th of August, 1714.

It appeared, in the course of the evidence, that the prisoner lodged in the parish of St. Anne, Soho, in the same house with the deceased, who being a peruke-maker by trade, Plunket bespoke a wig of him, which Brown finished, and asked seven pounds for it, but at length lowered his demand to six: Plunket bid him four pounds for it; but was so enraged at what he thought an exorbitant price, that he took up a razor, cut his throat, and then made his escape; but was apprehended on the following day.

As soon as the horrid deed was perpetrated, Brown came down stairs in a bloody condition, holding his hands to his throat: on which a surgeon was sent for, who dressed his wounds, and gave him some cordials; by which he was so far recovered as to be able to describe the prisoner, who, he said, stood behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

It was proved that a sword and a pair of gloves belonging to the prisoner were found on a bed in the room where Brown was murdered; and Plunket having nothing material to urge in his defence, was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 22d of September, 1714.

He professed to die a Roman Catholic; and it was with the utmost difficulty he was brought to confess the justice of the sentence in consequence of which he suffered.

This was one of the most unprovoked murders of which we ever remember to have read. Plunket bespoke a wig of Brown, and because the latter asked more for it than the other supposed it to be worth, he is irritated to such a degree of passion as to cut his throat; The short and serious lesson to be learnt from this shocking narrative is, to guard carefully against the first impulse of sudden passion; and to remember, that without a constant guard of this kind is kept on ourselves, that the human heart is "corrupt above all things, and "desperately wicked."

May the preventing grace of God keep us all from being guilty of crimes of this atrocious nature; crimes which are assuredly and severely punished in this world, and which threaten the most dreadful and lasting torments in the next.

Account

Account of THOMAS DOUGLAS, who was executed at Tyburn, for *Stabbing* WILLIAM SPARKS.

THOMAS DOUGLAS, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of William Sparks, a seaman, at a public-house in Wapping.

It appeared in the course of the evidence, that the parties had been drinking together till they were inflamed with liquor, when the prisoner took up a knife, and stabbed the other in such a manner that he died on the spot. The atrociousness of the offence was such, that Douglas was immediately taken into custody; and being convicted on the clearest evidence, received sentence of death.

This criminal was born in the county of Berwick in Scotland, and having been educated by his parents according to the strictly religious plan prevailing in that county, he was bound apprentice to a sea-faring person at Berwick, and when he was out of his time he entered on board a ship in the royal navy, and in this station acquired the character of an expert and valiant seaman.

Having served queen Anne during several engagement in the Mediterranean and other seas, he returned to England with Sparks, who was his ship-mate, on whom he committed the murder we have mentioned.

After conviction, it was a difficult matter to make Douglas sensible of the enormity of the crime that he had committed; for he supposed that, as he was drunk when he perpetrated the fact, he ought to be considered in the same light as a man who was a lunatic.

This unhappy malefactor suffered at Tyburn on the 27th of October, 1714.

From his fate and sentiments we may learn the following useful instructions. We see that drunkenness is a crime of a very high nature, since it may lead to the commission of the highest. If this man had not been in a state of intoxication, he would probably never have been guilty of murder. We should remember that the bounties of Providence were sent for our use and sustenance, not to be abused. It is a judicious observation of the ingenious authors of the Spectator, that “if a man commits murder when he is drunk, he must be hanged for it when sober.” It is no excuse for any one to say he was guilty of a crime when drunk, because drunkenness itself is a crime; and what he may deem an excuse is only an aggravation of his offence, since it is acknowledging that he has been guilty of two crimes instead of one.

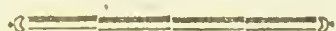
The conclusion to be drawn from this sad story is, that temperance is a capital virtue; and that drunkenness, as it debauches the understanding, reduces a man below the level of the “beasts that perish.” The offender before us acknowledged, in his last moments, that it was but the forerunner of other crimes: and as what happened to him may be the case with others; as drunkenness produces quarrels, and quarrels lead to murder, we hope the case of this unhappy man will impress on the minds of our readers the great importance of temperance and sobriety. We see that Douglas had received a very religious education; yet even this was inadequate to preserve him from the fatal effects of a casual intoxication! When men drink too much, and in consequence thereof assault and

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NATH. PARKHURST, Esq.—for *Murder*. 173

wound their companions, we may say, in the words of the poet, that

“Death is in the Bowl.”



Account of NATHANIEL PARKHURST, Esq.
who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for the *Murder* of
LEWIS PLEURA.

MR. PARKHURST was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the Murder of Lewis Pleura, on the 3d of March, 1715; and a second time indicted on the statute of stabbing: when the substance of the evidence given against him was as follows.

Parkhurst and the deceased having been fellow prisoners in the Fleet for debt, the former, who had sat up drinking till three o'clock in the morning, went into a room adjoining to that of Mr. Pleura, and said, “D—n you, Sir Lewis, “where are you?” but finding that he had mistaken the room, he went into the right chamber, and said, “D— you, Sir Lewis, pay me four “guineas you owe me.” Soon after this the cry of murder was heard; when a number of people repairing to the place, found Pleura weltering in his blood on the floor, and Parkhurst over him with his sword, who had stabbed him in near twenty places.

A surgeon was immediately sent for, who dressed the deceased, and put him to bed, and as soon as he recovered the use of his speech, he declared that Parkhurst had assassinated him. Parkhurst being taken out of the room, went back again to it, and said, “D— you, Pleura, “are you not dead yet?”

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In answer to this evidence against him, he said, that he was ignorant of having committed the crime, and, for two years and a half past, had been in a very unhappy state of mind; and several witnesses were called to prove that he had done many things which seemed to intimate that he was a lunatic: but, on the contrary, other evidences deposed, that not long before the murder happened he had taken such steps towards obtaining his liberty as proved that he was in the full use of his intellectual faculties. Upon the whole, therefore, the jury found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

Mr. Parkhurst was a native of the village of Catesby, near Daventry in Northamptonshire, and was the son of very respectable parents, who having given him the education common in a country academy, sent him to finish his studies at Wadham college, in Oxford; but associating himself with men of an atheistical turn of mind, they employed themselves in ridiculing religion, and making a jest of the scriptures, and every thing that was held sacred.

Lewis Pleura, who was born in Italy, had taken upon himself the title of count, and subsisted by the practice of gaming, till being greatly reduced in circumstances, he was obliged to take refuge in the Fleet-prison, where he became acquainted with Mr. Parkhurst.

Soon after this offender had received sentence of death, he began to see the error of those opinions he had imbibed, acknowledged the truth of that religion he had ridiculed, and felt the force of its divine precepts. He confessed that the dissolute course of life which he had led had wasted his substance, weakened his intellectual faculties,

NATH. PARKHURST, Esq.—for *Murder*. 175

ties, and disturbed his mind to such a degree, that before he committed the murder for which he suffered, he had resolved to kill some person or other, and make his escape from the Fleet Prison: or, if he should be unable to effect this, he intended to have been guilty of suicide.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor, that, on the morning of execution, he ordered a fowl to be prepared for his breakfast, of which he seemed to eat with a good appetite, and drank a pint of liquor with it.

At the place of execution he addressed himself to the populace, intimating that since he had been ill of the small-pox, about twenty years before, his head had been affected to such a degree, that he was never able to speak long at a time; wherefore he said no more, only earnestly requested their prayers for his departing soul.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of May, 1715, in the 39th year of his age.

It will seem extraordinary to our readers that Mr. Parkhurst should order a fowl for his breakfast, and eat heartily of it, just before he was going to launch into eternity; but it is within the memory of many thousand persons now living, that lord Lovat, on the morning that he was beheaded, breakfasted on minced veal, a dish of which he was extremely fond. One would imagine that the solemn scene before a man in such awful moments should detach him from every thing that had relation to this life, and that his ideas should be fixed only on those eternal scenes that were soon to be displayed to his view!

Mr. Parkhurst seems to have owed his destruction to his association with men of libertine principles: men who derided religion, and scoffed at holy things. We may safely conclude that there
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is not such a being in the world as an atheist who can be happy. The man who denies the existence of that God, in whom he lives, moves, and has his being, must be extremely wretched in this world, while he is preparing for an eternity of wretchedness in the next.

On the contrary, the man who has a firm faith in the important and all cheering doctrines of christianity, will go through the various scenes of this life with a serene composure of mind; he will, as far as lies within his power, discharge his duty to God and man, and meet the moment of his dissolution in the fullest confidence that his final salvation will be perfected through the merits of that Saviour in whom he has trusted.

After the expulsion of Adam from Paradise, Cain stands the first notorious example on record of the sin of murder; a crime of so enormous a magnitude, that no language can be found in which to express its malignity. The murderer assumes to himself the privilege of Heaven, and presumes to stop the breath of his fellow-creature at his own pleasure, and to hurry him into eternity "with all his imperfections on his head."

Let those whom the turbulence of their passions may tempt only to *think* of committing murder, reflect, that there is a just God who judgeth the earth, and that all our most secret actions will be brought to light.



Account of the Trial of JOHN BIGG, who was convicted of *Altering a Bank Note*.

ON the 2d of June, 1715, John Bigg was indicted at the Old Bailey, on two indictments,

ments, the one for erasing, and the other for altering a bank-note of 100l.

On the trial it appeared that the bill in question was drawn in favour of James White or bearer, and had been signed by Joseph Odam, for the governor and company of the Bank of England: that this bill having been brought to the Bank, 90l. was paid and endorsed on it: that it was afterwards brought again, when 25l. was paid and endorsed as before; and the clerks finding that this bill, among others, had been overpaid, were surprized to think how it could have happened, till one Mr. Collins informed them that the prisoner had tempted him to be concerned with him in taking out the letters of the red ink on the notes, by means of a certain liquid; and had even shewn him in what manner it was to be done.

It appeared likewise that the prisoner had discovered this secret to Mars, who had seen him make the experiment, had received money for him on the altered notes, and was promised a third part of the profit for his share in the iniquity.

The prisoner did not deny the charge; but his council pleaded that Mr. Odam was not a servant properly qualified to make out such bills, unless he had been authorized under the seal of the corporation. They likewise insisted that writing with red ink on the inside of the bill could not be deemed an indorsement; and even if it were so accounted, the fact with which the prisoner was charged could not be called an altering or erasing.

After some altercation between the king's council and those of the prisoner, the opinion of the court was that Mr. Odam was a person properly

qualified to make out such bills; but a doubt arising respecting the other articles, the jury gave a special verdict.

The judges meeting on this occasion at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, Fleet-street, the case was solemnly argued; after which the unanimous opinion of the reverend sages of the law was given that the prisoner was guilty, within the meaning of the act of parliament; in consequence of which he received sentence of death in December, 1715, but afterwards obtained a free pardon.

From the case of this malefactor we may see the tenderness with which Englishmen are treated in matters which concern their lives. In cases of special verdicts prisoners have the advantage of the opinion of two juries: the first not knowing in what light to consider the crime, the learned bench of judges form a kind of second jury, where, all partiality being set aside, the supposed criminal is judged according to the strict meaning of the law: and, even after conviction, has a chance of obtaining the royal mercy, as happened in the case of the offender in question.

Hence, then, let Englishmen learn the value of those laws by which they are protected, and be devoutly thankful to that Providence which hath cast their lot in a country, the wisdom of whose legislature is the envy and admiration of the universe.



Account of HENRY POWEL, who was hanged
at Tyburn for a Robbery on the Highway.

HENRY POWEL was a native of London,
born of respectable parents in the year 1691.
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At the age of nine years he was placed at Merchant Taylor's School, whence he was removed to the care of Dr. Shorter, under whom he obtained a tolerable proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages.

Having made choice of the profession of a surgeon, he was bound at Surgeon's-Hall, to a gentleman equally eminent for his skill and piety: but giving early proofs of the wildness of his disposition, his master predicted the fatal consequence that would ensue.

Powel's father and mother dying soon after he was bound, and his master, when he had served six years of his time, he was wholly at his own disposal; a circumstance that led to his ruin. He was at this time only eighteen years of age, and hitherto had not kept any company that was notoriously wicked. Going now to see a young woman who was related to him, she fancied "a ring which he had on his finger, and wished he would exchange it for hers, which he did: but it appearing to be of less value than she had imagined, she was base enough, on the following morning, to have him seized in his bed, as a person proper to serve the king; and without being permitted to send for any friend, he was sent into Flanders as a foot-soldier.

He twice deserted from the regiment in which he served; but the intercession of some of his officers saved him from the customary punishment. When he had been a soldier about three years the regiment was quartered at Nieuport, between Dunkirk and Ostend, whence he again deserted, in company with seven other men, who travelled into Holland, where they embarked on board a ship bound to England, and being landed at Burlington in Yorkshire, Powel came up to London.

Being arrived in the metropolis, he found that he had not one acquaintance left who was able and willing to assist him; so that he repented having deserted from the army, being reduced to such a situation that he saw no prospect before him but either to beg or steal. The first he despised as a mean occupation, and the latter he dreaded as equally destructive to his soul and body.

Hereupon he applied for employment as a porter, and worked at the water-side, till a fellow induced him to be concerned in stealing some goods, for which the other was hanged.

About this time Powel married a young woman of strict virtue, who finding some irregularity in his behaviour, warned him to avoid all evil courses, as they must infallibly end in his destruction.

On the 15th of October, 1715, he went as far as South Mims in Hertfordshire, where he stopped Sarah Maddocks on the highway, and robbed her of two shillings and six-pence; for which offence he was apprehended, and being tried at the Old-Bailey in the following month, he was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1715.

Just before his going to the place of execution, he delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, in which were the following passages: "I account this ignominious death as a just judgment for my sins against the Divine Majesty, and my neighbour; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope (with true repentance, and a steadfast faith in Christ Jesus) he will seal my pardon in heaven, before I go hence and be no more seen; and I bless God, I have had more consolation under my condemnation, than
ever

ACCOUNT of the REBELLION in 1715. 181

ever I had these many years; and I hope that those who survive me will take warning by my fatal end.

“ I have this comfort, that no man can accuse me of enticing him to the commission of such facts; especially one person, who had accused me of it since my condemnation: but for the value I have for him, I'll omit his name, and desire him to take warning by me; being resolved within myself, that if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquish all such courses.”

This malefactor had been enducated in a manner greatly superior to the generality of those unhappy wretches who come to a like fatal end; and seems to have owed his destruction in some degree to his poverty. Thus far he appears an object of pity; but as he was in a way of earning his bread, though in a humble station, he ought to have resigned himself to his fate, and not to have been led astray into the paths of iniquity.

Hence let the poor be taught that a shilling honestly earned will afford them more satisfaction than any sum, however large, acquired in a fraudulent manner. The man who lives by depredations on others must be always restless in his own mind. There is great force, as well as truth, in that text of Scripture which says that “ there is no peace to the wicked.”



Particulars respecting the LORDS and other Persons who were tried on account of the Rebellion in the year 1715.

WHEN, in pursuance of the act of settlement, king George the First succeeded to the
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the throne of these realms, the earl of Mar, a Scottish nobleman, who had been deeply concerned with queen Anne's tory ministry, was deprived of all the places he held under the government; in revenge for which he retired to Scotland, and meditated a scheme to dethrone the king, and overturn the constitution.

Being assured of the assistance of a number of the Highlanders, he communicated his plan to some noblemen in Scotland and the north of England, who joined with him in sending an invitation to the Pretender to invade these kingdoms: and they also dispatched three men to London, to endeavour to enlist soldiers for the Pretender's service.

The names of these men were, Robert Whitty, Felix O'Hara, and Joseph Sullivan; and though the business in which they engaged was of the most dangerous nature, yet they continued it for some time: but were at length apprehended, brought to trial, and being convicted, were executed at Tyburn on the 28th of May, 1715.

ROBERT WHITTY was born in Ireland, and having enlisted for a soldier when young, served in an English regiment in Spain, where being wounded, he was brought to England, and received the bounty of Chelsea-college as an out-pensioner.

FELIX O'HARA, who was about 29 years of age, was likewise an Irishman, and having lived some time in Dublin as a waiter at a tavern, he saved some money, and entered into business for himself; but that not answering as he could have wished, he came to London.

JOSEPH SULLIVAN was a native of Munster in Ireland, and about the same age as O'Hara. He had for some time served in the Irish brigades, but

ACCOUNT of the REBELLION in 1715. 183

but obtaining his discharge, he came to England, and was thought a fit agent to engage in the business which cost him and his companions their lives.

These men denied, at the time of their trial, that they had been guilty of any crime; and even at the place of execution they attempted to defend their conduct. They all died professing the Roman Catholic religion.

Hence let us learn to abhor the pernicious doctrines of that church, which could encourage subjects in the wish to dethrone their lawful sovereign; and may we be taught the force of the instruction, “Fear God, and honour the King.”

We will now continue the narrative, of which this is but the introduction. The earl of Mar had resolved to keep his proceedings an absolute secret; but it is almost impossible for transactions of this nature to remain so; and information of what had passed having been transmitted to Court, the King went to the House on the 20th of July, 1715, and having sent for the Commons, informed both Houses of Parliament that he had received authentic intelligence of an intention formed by the Pretender to invade his kingdoms; and that he was apprehensive he had but too many abettors in this country.

Wherefore, that the ends of public justice might be speedily obtained, the King requested that the habeas corpus act might be suspended till the rebellion should be at an end. Accordingly the legislature suspended the said act; in consequence of which several suspected persons were taken into custody. The militia was now raised in different parts of the kingdom; the guards were encamped in Hyde-park; a number of ships were ordered to
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guard the coasts, and other proper steps taken for the public security.

The earl of Mar was by this time at the head of three thousand men, with whom he marched from town to town in Scotland, proclaiming the Pretender by the title of James the Third. Some of the soldiers in the castle of Edinburgh having been bribed to assist some of the earl of Mar's men in getting over the walls by means of rope-ladders, they were dispatched to surprize the castle: but the Lord Justice Clerk was so much on his guard, that this scheme was frustrated, and some of the parties concerned in it suffered death.

Chagrined by this circumstance, and hearing that the French King was just then dead, many of the rebels were for abandoning their enterprize till the arrival of the Pretender: but this intention did not take place: for on the 6th of October 1715, Thomas Foster, Esq. member of Parliament for Northumberland, set up the Pretender's standard in that county, and being joined by several noblemen and gentlemen, they made an attempt to seize Newcastle, but did not succeed. They were afterwards joined by a body of the Scotch at Kelso, and after marching to different places, they came to Preston in Lancashire.

In the mean time the generals Carpenter and Wills marched into the North; but finding the rebels gone southward, they went to Preston, which place the Rebels intended to defend against the King's forces, whom they for some time annoyed by firing from the windows of the houses; but at length the royal troops were victorious, after the loss of about 150 men.

It is uncertain how many of the rebels were killed; but the number of prisoners was about
fifteen

fifteen hundred, among whom were the earl of Derwentwater *, Lord Widdrington *: the earls of Nithisdale, Winton, and Carnwarth; viscount Kenmure, and lord Nairn. The common soldiers among the rebels were imprisoned at Liverpool, and other places in that neighbourhood; but the above-mentioned noblemen, with other persons above the common rank, to the number of near three hundred, were brought to London.

They arrived at Highgate on the 14th of November, where they were met by a party of the foot-guards, and their arms being tied back with cords, their horses were led, each by a grenadier; and in this ignominious manner they were conducted to the metropolis; when the noblemen were committed to the Tower, and the rest to Newgate.

In the mean time a number of the Scotch rebels had marched to Perth, where they proclaimed the Pretender: in consequence of which John duke of Argyle, who had been commissioned to raise forces, marched against and came up with them at Sheriffmuir, near Dumblane, on the very day of the other engagement; and the rebellion would have been then crushed, but that some of the duke's troops ran away on the first fire, and got to Stirling, about seven miles from the field of battle; however, the duke obtained a partial victory, by forcing the enemies lines with his dragoons.

The earl of Mar retired to Perth on the following day, proposing to cross the Forth, with a view to join the rebels in England: but a fleet

VOL. I. No. 5.

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* These two were English peers: the rest Scotch.

lying opposite Edinburgh, prevented this design from being carried into execution.

About this period Sir John M'Kenzie having fortified the town of Inverness for the Pretender, lord Lovat*, at the head of his tenants, drove him from that place; a circumstance of great importance to the royal cause, as a communication was thereby opened between the Highlands and the south of Scotland; and the earl of Seaforth, and the marquis of Huntly, laid down their arms, in consequence of the earl of Sutherland having armed his tenants in support of government.

The rebels now went into winter quarters at Perth, and the duke of Argyle at Stirling; and the Pretender having landed at Peterhead, with six attendants only, met his friends at Perth on the 22d of December; and on the ninth of the following month made a public entry into the palace of Scone, and assuming the dignity of a sovereign prince, issued a proclamation for his coronation, and another for assembling the states.

But this farce continued only for a very short time; for general Cadogan arriving with six thousand Dutch forces to the aid of the duke of Argyle, about the end of January, the latter marched towards Perth; but the rebels fled, as soon as they heard he was advancing. For while they had expectation of aid from France: in the hope of which the Pretender and his adherents went to Dundee, and thence to Montrose; but after waiting a while, and no aid arriving, they began to despair;

* The same lord Lovat who was beheaded on Tower-hill, for being concerned in the rebellion of 1745. What an inconsistency in this man's character!

despair; and as the King's troops pursued them, the common men dispersed to their own habitations, and the Pretender, with the earl of Mar, and some others of his principal adherents, embarked on board a ship in the harbour of Montrose, and were soon landed in France, after having narrowly escaped an English fleet which lay on the coast of Scotland, through the extreme darkness of the night in which they embarked.

The disturbance in the north being thus at an end, both houses of parliament combined to shew their loyalty to their sovereign, and regard to the public welfare. Mr. Foster was expelled from the House of Commons, who unanimously agreed to impeach the seven lords; which was accordingly done.

These unhappy noblemen were informed of what had passed; and earl Cowper, lord high chancellor, being appointed lord high steward on the occasion, all the lords pleaded guilty to the indictment, except the earl of Winton: but they offered such pleas in extenuation of their crimes as they thought might induce the king to extend his royal mercy to them; and the earl of Derwentwater hinted that the proceeding of the House of Commons in the impeachment was out of the ordinary course of law.

In consequence of their having pleaded guilty, proclamation was made for silence, and the lord high steward passed sentence of death on them, prefacing the solemn sentence with the following affecting speech:

“ JAMES earl of Derwentwater, William lord Widdrington, William earl of Nithisdale, Robert earl of Carnwarth, William viscount Kenmure, William lord Nairn:

“ You stand impeached by the Commons of Great-Britain, in parliament assembled, of high treason, in traitorously imagining and compassing the death of his most sacred majesty, and in conspiring for that end to levy a bloody and destructive war against his majesty, in order to depose and murder him ; and in levying war accordingly, and proclaiming a pretender to his crown to be king of these realms.

“ Which impeachment, though one of your lordships, in the introduction to his plea, supposes to be out of the ordinary and common course of the law and justice, is yet as much a course of proceeding according to the common law, as any other whatsoever.

“ If you had been indicted, the indictment must have been removed, and brought before the House of Lords, (the parliament sitting.) In that case you had ('tis true) been accused only by the grand-jury of one county ; in the present, the whole body of the commons of Great-Britain, by their representatives, are your accusers.

“ And this circumstance is very observable, (to exclude all possible supposition of hardship, as to the method of proceeding against you) that however all great assemblies are apt to differ on other points, you were impeached by the unanimous opinion of the House of Commons, not one contradicting.

“ They found themselves, it seems, so much concerned in the preservation of his most truly sacred majesty, and the Protestant succession (the very life and soul of these kingdoms) that they could not omit the first opportunity of taking their proper part, in order to so signal and necessary an act of his majesty's justice.

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“ And thus the whole body politic of this free kingdom has in a manner rose up in its own defence, for the punishment of those crimes, which, it was rightly apprehended, had a direct tendency to the everlasting dissolution of it.

“ To this impeachment you have severally pleaded, and acknowledged yourselves guilty of the high treason therein contained.

“ Your pleas are accompanied with some variety of matter to mitigate your offences, and to obtain mercy.

“ Part of which, as some of the circumstances said to have attended your surrender, (seeming to be offered rather as arguments only for mercy, than any thing in mitigation of your preceding guilt) is not proper for me to take notice of.

“ But as to the other part, which is meant to extenuate the crimes of which you are convicted, it is fit I should take this occasion to make some observations to your lordships upon it, to the end that the judgment to be given against you may clearly appear to be just and righteous, as well as legal; and that you may not remain under any fatal error in respect of a greater judicature, by reflecting with less horror and remorse on the guilt you have contracted than it really deserves.

“ It is alledged, by some of your lordships, that you engaged in this rebellion without previous concert or deliberation, and without suitable preparations of men, horses, and arms.

“ If this should be supposed true, on some of your lordships averring it, I desire you to consider, that as it exempts you from the circumstance of contriving this treason, so it very much aggravates your guilt in that part you have undoubtedly borne in the execution of it.

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“ For it shews, that your inclinations to rebel were so well known, (which could only be from a continued series of your words and actions) that the contrivers of that horrid design depended upon you, and therein judged rightly, that your zeal to engage in this treason was so strong, as to carry you into it on the least warning, and the very first invitation: that you would not excuse yourselves by want of preparation, as you might have done; and that rather than not have share in the rebellion, you would plunge yourselves into it, almost naked and unprovided for such an enterprize: in short, that your men, horses, and arms, were not so well prepared as they might, and would have been, on longer warning; but your minds were.

“ It is alledged also, as an extenuation of your crimes, that no cruel or harsh action (I suppose is meant no rapine or plunder, or worse) has been committed by you.

“ This may, in part only, be true: but then your lordships will at the same time consider, that the laying waste a tract of lands bears but a little proportion, in point of guilt, compared with that crime of which you stand convicted; an open attempt to destroy the best of kings, to ruin the whole fabrick, and rase the very foundations of a government, the best suited of any in the world, to perfect the happiness and support the dignity of human nature. The former offence causes but a mischief that is soon recovered, and is usually pretty much confined; the latter, had it succeeded, must have brought a lasting and universal destruction on the whole kingdom.

“ Besides, much of this was owing to accident; your march was so hasty, partly to avoid
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the king's troops, and partly from a vain hope to stir up insurrections in all the counties you passed through, that you had not time to spread devastation, without deviating from your main, and, as I have observed, much worse design.

“ Farther: 'Tis very surprizing that any concerned in this rebellion, should lay their engaging in it on the government's doing a necessary and usual act in like cases, for its preservation; the giving orders to confine such as were most likely to join in that treason: 'tis hard to believe that any one should rebel, merely to avoid being restrained from rebelling; or that a gentle confinement would not much better have suited a crazy state of health, than the fatigues and inconveniences of such long and hasty marches in the depth of winter.

“ Your lordships rising in arms therefore, has much more justified the prudence and fitness of those orders, than those orders will in any wise serve to mitigate your treason. Alas! happy had it been for all your lordships, had you fallen under so indulgent a restraint!

“ When your lordships shall in good earnest apply yourselves to think impartially on your case, surely you will not yourselves believe that it is possible, in the nature of the thing, to be engaged, and continue so long engaged, in such a difficult and laborious enterprize, through rashness: surprize, or inadvertency; or that had the attack at Preston been less sudden, (and consequently the rebels better prepared to receive it) your lordships had been reduced the sooner, and with less, if not without any bloodshed.

“ No, my lords, these, and such like, are artful colourings proceeding from minds filled with expectation of continuing in this world, and not
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from such as are preparing for their defence before a tribunal, where the thoughts of the heart, and the true springs and causes of actions must be laid open.

“ And now, my lords, having thus removed some false colours you have used ; to assist you yet farther in that necessary work of thinking on your great offence as you ought, I proceed to touch upon several circumstances that seem greatly to aggravate your crime, and which will deserve your most serious consideration.

“ The divine virtues (’tis one of your lordships own epithets) which all the world, as well as your lordships, acknowledge to be in his majesty, and which you now lay claim to, ought certainly to have with-held your hands from endeavouring to depose, to destroy, to murder, that most excellent prince ; so the impeachment speaks, and so the law construes your actions : and this is not only true in the notion of law, but almost always so in deed and reason. ’Tis a trite, but a very true remark, that there are but few hours between kings being reduced under the power of pretenders to their crown and their graves. Had you succeeded, his majesty’s case would, I fear, have hardly been an exception to that general rule, since ’tis highly improbable that flight should have saved any of that illustrious and valiant family.

“ ’Tis a further aggravation of your crime, that his majesty, whom your lordships would have dethroned, affected not the crown by force, or by the arts of ambition, but succeeded peaceably and legally to it ; and, on the decease of her late majesty without issue, became undoubtedly the next in course of descent capable of succeeding to the crown, by the law and constitution of this
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kingdom, as it stood declared some years before the crown was expressly limited to the house of Hanover. This right was acknowledged, and the descent of the crown limited or confirmed accordingly, by the whole legislatures in two successive reigns, and more than once in the latter; which your lordships accomplices are very far from allowing would bias the nation to that side.

“ How could it then enter into the heart of man, to think that private persons might with a good conscience endeavour to subvert such a settlement, by running to tumultuary arms, and by intoxicating the dregs of the people with contradictory opinions and groundless slanders: or that God’s providence would ever prosper such wicked, such ruinous attempts? Especially if, in the next place, it be considered, that the most fertile inventions, on the side of the rebellion, have not been able to assign the least shadow of a grievance as the cause of it: to such poor shifts have they been reduced on this head, that, for want of better colours, it has been objected, in a solemn manner, by your lordship’s associates, to his majesty’s government, that his people do not enjoy the fruits of peace, as our neighbours have done, since the last war: thus they first rob us of our peace, and then upbraid us that we have it not. It is a monstrous rebellion, that can find no fault with the government it invades, but what is the effect of the rebellion itself.

“ Your lordships will likewise do well to consider what an additional burden your treason has made necessary on the people of this kingdom, who wanted and were about to enjoy some respite: to this end, ’tis well known, that all new, or increase of taxes, were the last year carefully avoided,

and his majesty was contented to have no more forces than were just sufficient to attend his person, and shut the gates of a few garrisons.

“ But what his majesty thus did for the ease and quiet of his people, you most ungratefully turned to his disadvantage, by taking encouragement from thence, to endanger his and his kingdoms safety, and to bring oppression on your fellow-subjects.

“ Your Lordships observe, I avoid expatiating on the miseries of a civil war, a very large and copious subject: I shall but barely suggest to you on that head, that whatever those calamities may happen to be, in the present case, all who are, at any time, or in any place, partakers in the rebellion, (especially persons of figure and distinction) are in some degree responsible for them; and therefore your lordships must not hold yourselves quite clear from the guilt of those barbarities which have been lately committed, by such as are engaged in the same treason with you, and not yet perfectly reduced, in burning the habitations of their countrymen, and thereby exposing many thousands to cold and hunger in this rigorous season.

“ I must be so just, to such of your lordships as profess the religion of the church of Rome, that you had one temptation, and that a great one, to engage you in this treason, which the others had not; in that, it was evident, success on your part must for ever have established Popery in this kingdom, and that probably you could never have again so fair an opportunity.

“ But then, good God! how must these Protestants be covered with confusion, who entered into the same measures, without so much as capitulating for their religion, (that ever I could find
from

from any examination I have seen or heard) or so much as requiring, much less obtaining a frail promise, that it should be preserved, or even tolerated.

“ It is my duty to exhort your lordships thus to think of the aggravations, as well as the mitigations (if there be any) of your offences : and if I could have the least hopes, that the prejudices of habit and education would not be too strong for the most earnest and charitable entreaties, I would beg you not to rely any longer on those directors of your consciences, by whose conduct you have, very probably, been led into this miserable condition ; but that your lordships would be assisted by some of those pious and learned divines of the church of England, who have constantly borne that infallible mark of sincere Christians, universal charity.

“ And now, my lords, nothing remains, but that I pronounce upon you (and sorry I am that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible sentence of the law, which must be the same that is usually given against the meanest offender in the like kind.

“ The most ignominious and painful parts of it are usually remitted, by the grace of the crown, to persons of your quality ; but the law, in this case, being deaf to all distinctions of persons, requires I should pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this court,

“ That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, William Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithisdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth, William Viscount Kenmure, and William Lord Nairn, and every of you, return to the prison of the Tower, from whence you came ; from thence you must be drawn to the place of execution ; when

you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you be dead ; for you must be cut down alive ; then your bowels must be taken out, and burnt before your faces ; then your heads must be severed from your bodies, and your bodies divided each into four quarters ; and these must be at the King's disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your souls."

After sentence thus passed, the lords were remanded back to the Tower, and on the 18th of February, orders were sent to the lieutenant of the Tower and sheriffs for their execution ; and great solicitations were made in favour of them, which did not only reach the court, but came down to the two houses of parliament, and petitions were delivered in both, which being backed by some, occasioned debates : that in the House of Commons arose no higher than to occasion a motion for adjournment, thereby to prevent any further interposition there ; but the matter in the House of Peers was carried on with more success, where their petitions were delivered and spoke to, and it was carried by nine or ten voices, that the same should be received and read. And the question was put, whether the King had power to reprieve, in case of impeachment ? which being carried in the affirmative, a motion was made to address his Majesty to desire him to grant a reprieve to the lords under sentence ; but the movers thereof only obtained this clause, viz. " To reprieve such
 " of the condemned lords as deserve his mercy ;
 " and that the time of the respite should be left
 " to his Majesty's discretion."

To which address his Majesty replied,

" That on this, and other occasions, he would
 " do what he thought most consistent with the
 " dignity

“dignity of his crown, and the safety of his people.”

The great parties they had made, as was said, by the means of money, and also the rash expressions too common in the mouths of many of their friends, as if the government did not dare to execute them, did not a little contribute to the hastening their execution: for on the same day the address was presented, the 23d of February, it was resolved in council, that the earl of Derwentwater and the lord Kenmure, should be beheaded; and the earl of Nithisdale, apprehending he should be included in the warrant, made his escape the evening before, in a woman's riding-hood, supposed to have been conveyed to him by his mother on a visit.

In the morning of the 24th of February three detachments of the life-guards went from Whitehall to Tower-hill, and having taken their stations round the scaffold, the two lords were brought from the Tower at ten o'clock, and being received by the sheriffs at the bar, were conducted to the Transport-office on Tower-hill; and, at the expiration of about an hour, the earl of Derwentwater sent word that he was ready: on which Sir John Fryer, one of the sheriffs, walked before him to the scaffold, and when there told him he might have what time he pleased to prepare himself for death.

His lordship desired to read a paper which he had written, the substance of which was, that he was sorry for having pleaded guilty; that he acknowledged no king but James the Third, for whom he had an inviolable affection, and that these kingdoms would never be happy till the ancient constitution was restored; and he wished his death might contribute to that desirable end. His lordship

ship professed to die a Roman Catholic, and in the postscript to his speech, said, "If that prince, who now governs, had given me life, I should have thought myself obliged never more to have taken up arms against him."

Sir John Fryer desiring to have the paper, he said he had sent a copy of it to his friends, and then delivered it. He then read some prayers out of two small books, and kneeled down to try how the block would fit his neck. This being done, he had again recourse to his devotions, and having told the executioner that he forgave him, and likewise forgave all his enemies, he directed him to strike when he should repeat the words "sweet Jesus" the third time.

He then kneeled down, and said, "sweet Jesus! receive my spirit; sweet Jesus! be merciful to me; sweet Jesus"—and appeared to be proceeding in his prayer, when his head was struck off at one blow; and the executioner taking it up, exhibited it at the four corners of the scaffold, saying, "Behold the head of a traitor:—God save king George."

The body was now wrapped up in black baize, and being carried to a coach, was delivered to the friends of the deceased; and the scaffold having been cleared, fresh baize put on the block, and saw-dust strewed, that none of the blood might appear, lord Kenmure was conducted to the scaffold.

His lordship, who was a Protestant was attended by two clergymen; but he declined saying much, telling one of them that he had prudential reasons for not delivering his sentiments: which were supposed to arise from his regard to lord Carnwarth, who was his brother-in-law, and was then interceding for the royal mercy; as his talk-
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ing in the way that lord Derwentwater had done, might be supposed to injure his lordship with those most likely to serve him.

Lord Kenmure having finished his devotions, declared that he forgave the executioner, to whom he made a present of eight guineas. He was attended by a surgeon, who drew his finger over that part of the neck where the blow was to be struck; and being executed as lord Derwentwater had been, his body was delivered to the care of an undertaker.

George earl of Winton, not having pleaded guilty with the other lords, was brought to his trial on the 15th of March, when the principal matter urged in his favour was, that he had surrendered at Preston in consequence of a promise from general Wills to grant him his life: in answer to which it was sworn, that no promise of mercy was made, but that the rebels surrendered at discretion.

The earl of Winton having left his house, with fourteen or fifteen of his servants, well mounted and armed;—his joining the earl Carnwarth and lord Kenmure; his proceeding with the rebels through the various stages of their march, and his surrendering with the rest, were circumstances fully proved: notwithstanding which his council moved in arrest of judgment: but the plea on which this motion was founded being thought insufficient, his peers unanimously found him guilty: and then the lord high steward pronounced sentence on him, after having addressed him in the following forcible terms:

“**G**EORGE Earl of Winton, I have acquainted you, that your peers have found you

you guilty : that is, in the terms of the law, convicted you of the high-treason whereof you stand impeached ; after your lordship has moved in arrest of judgment, and their lordships have disallowed that motion, their next step is to proceed to judgment.

“ The melancholy part I am to bear, in pronouncing that judgment upon you, since it is his majesty’s pleasure to appoint me to that office, I dutifully submit to it : far, very far, from taking any satisfaction in it.

“ Till conviction, your lordship has been spoke to without the least prejudice, or supposition of your guilt ; but now it must be taken for granted, that your lordship is guilty of the high-treason whereof you stand impeached.

“ My lord, this your crime is the greatest known to the law of this kingdom, or of any other country whatsoever, and it is of the blackest and most odious species of that crime ; a conspiracy and attempt, manifested by an open rebellion, to depose and murder that sacred person, who sustains, and is the majesty of the whole ; and from whom, as from a fountain of warmth and glory, are dispersed all the honours, all the dignity of the state ; indeed the lasting and operative life and vigour of the laws, which plainly subsist by a due administration of the executive power.

“ So that attempting this precious life, is really striking at the most noble part, the seat of life, and spring of all motion in this government ; and may therefore properly be called a design to murder not only the king, but also the body politick of this kingdom.

“ And this is most evidently true in your lordship’s case, considering that success in your treason must infallibly have established Popery, and
that

that never fails to bring with it a civil as well as ecclesiastic tyranny: which is quite another sort of constitution than that of this kingdom, and cannot take place till the present is annihilated.

“ This your crime (so I must call it) is the more aggravated, in that where it proceeds so far as to take arms openly, and to make an offensive war against lawful authority, it is generally (as in your case) complicated with the horrid and crying sin of murdering many, who are not only innocent, but meritorious: and if pity be due (as I admit it is in some degree) to such as suffer for their own crimes, it must be admitted a much greater share of compassion is owing to them who have lost their lives merely by the crimes of other men.

“ As many as have so done in the late rebellion, so many murders have they to answer for who promoted it; and your lordship, in examining your conscience, will be under a great delusion, if you look on those who fell at Preston, Dum-lain, or elsewhere, on the side of the laws, and defence of settled order and government, as slain in lawful war, even judging of this matter by the law of nations.

“ Alas! my lord, your crime of high-treason is yet made redder, by shedding a great deal of the best blood in the kingdom; I include in this expression the brave common soldiers, as well as those gallant and heroic officers, who continued faithful to death, in defence of the laws: for sure but little blood can be better than that, which is shed while it is warm, in the cause of the true religion, and the liberties of its native country.

“ I believe it, notwithstanding the unfair arts and industry used, to stir up a pernicious excess of

commiseration toward such as have fallen by the sword of justice, (few, if compared with the numbers of good subjects, murdered from doors and windows at Preston only) the life of one honest, loyal subject is more precious in the eye of God, and all considering men, than the lives of many rebels and parricides.

“ This puts me in mind to observe to your lordship, that there is another malignity in your lordship’s crime, (open rebellion) which consists in this, that it is always sure of doing hurt to a government, in one respect, though it be defeated; (I will not say it does so on the whole matter).

“ For if the offence is too notorious to be let pass unobserved, by any connivance: then is government reduced to this dilemma: if it be not punished, the state is endangered by suffering examples to appear, that it may be attacked with impunity; if it be punished, they who are publicly or privately favourers of the treason (and perhaps some out of mere folly) raise undeserved clamours of cruelty against those in power; or the lowest their malice flies, is to make unseasonable, unlimited, and injudicious encorniums upon mercy and forgiveness, (things, rightly used, certainly of the greatest excellence.)

“ And this proceeding, it must be admitted, does harm, with silly and undistinguishing people. So that the rebels have the satisfaction of thinking they hurt the government a little even by their fall.

“ The only, but true consolation, every wise government has, in such a case, (after it has tempered justice with mercy, in such proportion as sound discretion directs, having always a care of the public safety above all things) is this; that
such

such like seeds of unreasonable discontents, take root on very shallow soil only; and that therefore, after they have made a weak shoot, they soon wither and come to nothing.

“ It is well your lordship has given an opportunity of doing the government right, on the subject of your surrender at Preston.

“ How confidently had it been given out by the faction, that the surrender was made on assurances, at least hopes, insinuated of pardon. Whereas the truth appears to be, that fear was the only motive to it: the evil day was deferred: and the rebels rightly depended, fewer would die at last by the measures they elected, than if they had stood an assault. They were awed by the experienced courage, discipline, and steadiness of the King's troops, and by the superior genius and spirit of his Majesty's commanders, over those of the rebels: so that in truth, they were never flattered with any other terms, than to surrender as rebels and traitors; their lives only to be spared till his Majesty's pleasure should be known.

“ It was indeed a debt due to those brave commanders and soldiers (to whom their king and country owe more than can be well expressed) that their victory should be vindicated to the present and future ages, from untrue detraction, and kept from being sullied by the tongues of rebels and their accomplices, when their arms could no longer hinder it.

“ 'Tis hard to leave this subject without shortly observing, that this engine, which sets the world on fire, a lying tongue, has been of prodigious use to the party of the rebels, not only since, and during the rebellion, but before, while it was forming, and the rebels preparing for it.

“ False facts, false hopes, and false characters, have been the greater half of the scheme they set out with, and yet seem to depend upon.

“ It has been rightly observed, your lordship’s answer does not so much as insist, with any clearness, on that which only could excuse your being taken in open rebellion; that is, you was forced into it, remained so under a force, and would have escaped from it, but could not.

“ If you had so insisted, it has been clearly proved that that had not been true; for your lordship was active and forward in many instances, and so considerable in military capacity among your fellow-soldiers, as to command a squadron. These, and other particulars, have been observed by the managers of the House of Commons, and therefore I shall not pursue them further, but conclude this introduction to the sentence, by exhorting your lordship, with perfect charity and much earnestness, to consider that now the time is come, when the veil of partiality should be taken from your eyes, (it must be so when you come to die) and that your lordship should hence forward think with clearness and indifference, (if possible) which must produce in you a hearty detestation of the high crime you have committed; and, being a Protestant, be very likely to make you a sincere penitent, for your having engaged in a design that must have destroyed the holy religion you profess, had it taken effect.

“ Nothing now remains, but that I pronounce upon you that sentence which the law ordains, and which sufficiently shews what thoughts your ancestors had of the crime of which your lordship is now convicted, viz. “ That you George Earl of Winton, &c.”

Soon after the passing this sentence, the earls of Winton and Nithisdale found means to escape out of the Tower; and Mess. Foster and McIntosh escaped from Newgate; but it was supposed that motives of mercy and tenderness in the prince of Wales, afterwards George the Second, favoured the escape of all these gentlemen.

This rebellion occasioned the untimely death of many other persons. Five were executed at Manchester, six at Wigan, and eleven at Preston: but a considerable number were brought to London, and being arraigned in the court of Exchequer, most of them pleaded guilty, and suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

It will now be proper that we mention the cases of such other remarkable persons as suffered on account of the rebellion; and then we will make some general remarks on the nature and heinousness of that offence.



Account of JOHN GORDON, WILLIAM KERR, and JOHN DORRELL, who were executed at *Tyburn* for *Highb-Treason*.

ALL the particulars we have been able to learn respecting these men are as follows. They had all of them served as officers in the army during the wars in the reign of queen Anne, but they were zealous friends to the cause of the Pretender.

Having learnt that the rebels had got as far as Lancashire, they appear to have been animated with the hope that success would attend the enterprise; whereupon they held several meetings at a public-house in Shoe-lane, London, where they agreed to set off for different parts of the country, to enlist some men to promote the undertaking;

taking ; and they bound themselves to each other, by the most solemn oaths, to keep their transactions secret.

But they defeated the effects of these oaths almost in the moment they took them : for they met so often, and were so careless of what they said, that they were heard by persons who listened at the door of their room : in consequence of which information was given, and they were taken into custody, tried, and being convicted on full evidence, were hanged and quartered at Tyburn on the 7th of December, 1715.

They were the first persons that suffered on account of the rebellion ; professed themselves Roman Catholics, and died denying the justice of the sentence against them.



Account of Colonel HENRY OXBURGH, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for *High-Treason*.

HENRY Oxburgh, Esq. the son of a man of considerable property in Lancashire, having been educated in the most rigid principles of the Roman Catholic religion, was sent abroad while a youth into the service of France, in which he acquired the character of a brave and gallant officer.

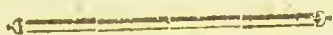
At the close of the war, he returned to England to see his friends, and finding that the rebels were advancing southwards, he raised a regiment, with which he joined the main army before it reached Preston. Colonel Oxburgh was the man who ordered the rebels to fire on the royal troops, and, if his opinion had been taken, the town would not have surrendered so soon as it did.

On his trial he pleaded guilty ; but after sentence was passed on him, and he found that every appli-

RICHARD GASCOIGN—for *High-Treason*. 207

application for mercy was unsuccessful, he talked in a strain very different from that of a man conscious of any crime. He said he considered the Pretender as his lawful sovereign, and never deemed himself the subject of any other prince. He even asserted that he would have been equally loyal to the Pretender if he had been a protestant.

This unhappy man, who seems to have fallen a victim to the prejudice of education, was hanged at Tyburn on the 14th of May, 1716.



Account of RICHARD GASCOIGN, Gentleman,
who was executed at *Tyburn* for *High-Treason*.

THIS unfortunate man was singularly active in fomenting the rebellion. So zealous was he in the cause, that he mortgaged his whole estate to supply him with money to purchase arms from foreign countries.

When the rebels marched towards the south of England he engaged all the forces he could, and went and joined them, proclaiming the Pretender king at every stage of his march. He was made prisoner by the king's troops at Preston; at the same time as Colonel Oxburgh; and being arraigned before Lord Chief Justice King, in Westminster-Hall, he pleaded "not guilty."

On his trial it was proved that some casks of arms which he had purchased abroad, were found on board a ship, directed to him; and being found guilty, on the clearest evidence, sentence of death was passed on him; in consequence of which he was executed at Tyburn, on the 25th of May, 1716.

While he lay under sentence of death his sentiments appeared to be nearly the same as those of Colonel Oxburgh: and at the place of execution
he

he declared that he did not take up arms with a view to restore the Roman catholic religion, but solely in behalf of James the third, whom he deemed his lawful sovereign.



Account of the Rev. WILLIAM PAUL, who was executed at *Tyburn* for *High-Treason*.

MR. PAUL was born of reputable parents, near Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, and having been educated for the pulpit, took the degree of Batchelor of Arts at St. John's College, Cambridge. After officiating as a chaplain for two clergymen, the bishop of Oxford presented him to the vicarage of Orton, in his native county, to which he was instituted in the year 1709.

The rebels having reached Preston, Mr. Paul began a journey to meet them; but was apprehended on suspicion, and carried before Colonel Noel, a justice of the peace, who finding no just cause of detention, dismissed him; on which he continued his journey to Preston, where he read prayers to the rebels three days successively, and prayed for the Pretender, by the name of King James, in the parish church.

A short time before the national forces reached Preston, Mr. Paul quitted that place, and coming to London, disguised himself by wearing coloured cloaths, a sword, a laced hat, and a full-bottomed wig.

But he had not been long in this disguise before he was met by Mr. Bird, a justice of the peace for Leicestershire, who caused him to be taken into custody, and carried to the house of the duke of Devonshire, who sent him to the secretary of state for examination; but as he refused to make any confession, he was delivered to
the

the custody of one of the king's messengers, with whom he remained about a fortnight, and was then committed to Newgate.

He was arraigned at Westminster on the 31st of May, and pleaded "not guilty;" on which he was remanded to Newgate, and had time allowed him to prepare his defence. On his return to prison he sent for a friend; to whom he said, "What must I do? I have been this day arraigned, and pleaded not guilty; but that will not avail, for too much will be proved against me." To this his friend replied, "I will persuade you to nothing; but, in my opinion, the best way is to confess your fault, ask pardon, and throw yourself on the King's mercy." Mr. Paul said his council advised the same, and he was resolved to do so; and when he was again brought to the bar, he retracted his former plea, and pleaded guilty; in consequence of which sentence of death was passed on him.

Being sent back to prison, he made every possible interest for the preservation of his life; for he seemed to have a most singular dread of death, particularly when attended with such disgraceful circumstances as he had reason to apprehend. He wrote a petition to the king, another to the lord chief justice, and letters to the archbishop of Canterbury, with other letters to clergymen; in all of which he acknowledges his crime, and his change of sentiments; and intercedes for mercy, in terms of the most abject humiliation.

In a letter to a female relation, he says, "I am among the number of those that are to suffer next Friday.—I cannot think of dying the death of a dog, by the hands of a common executioner, with any manner of patience. Transportation,

" tation, perpetual imprisonment, or any other
 " condition of life, will be infinitely preferable
 " to so barbarous and insupportable a way of end-
 " ing it; and means must be found for preventing,
 " or I shall anticipate the ignominy of the halter,
 " by laying violent hands on myself. Give Mr.
 " C ———r, to understand, that he may promise
 " any thing that he shall think fit in my name;
 " and that his royal highness the prince, and his
 " council, shall have no cause to repent of their
 " mercy to me."

All Mr. Paul's petitions, however, proved fruit-
 less: he was ordered for execution, and was at-
 tended by a nonjuring clergyman, who endea-
 voured to inspire him with an idea of the justice
 of the cause for which he was to yield his life:
 he was, however, dreadfully affected till within a
 few days of his death; when he began to assume a
 greater degree of courage.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of
 July, 1716, being attended by a nonjuring clergy-
 man, having declined the assistance of the ordi-
 nary of Newgate. Just before the cart drew away
 he made a speech, of which the following is a
 copy:

" Good People,

I AM just going to make my appearance in the
 other world, where I must give an account of
 all the actions of my past life; and though I have
 endeavoured to make my peace with God, by sin-
 cerely repenting of all my sins, yet forasmuch as
 several of them were of a public nature, I take it
 to be my duty to declare here, in the face of the
 world, my hearty abhorrence and detestation of
 them.

And

And first, I ask pardon of God and the King, for having violated my loyalty, by taking most abominable oaths, in defence of usurpation, against my lawful sovereign King James the Third.

And as I ask pardon of all whom I have injured or offended, so I do especially desire forgiveness of all those whom I have scandalized by pleading guilty. I am sensible it is a base and dishonourable action; that it is inconsistent with my duty to the King, and an entire surrender of my loyalty. Human frailty, and too great a desire for life, together with the persuasion of several, who pretended to be my friends, were the occasion of it. I trust God of his infinite mercy has forgiven me, and I hope all good christians will.

You see, my countrymen, by my habit, that I die a son, though a very unworthy one, of the church of England; but I would not have you think I am a member of the schismatical church, whose bishops set themselves up in opposition to those orthodox fathers, who were unlawfully and invalidly deprived by the prince of Orange. I declare that I renounce that communion, and that I die a dutiful and faithful member of the Nonjuring church, which has kept itself free from rebellion and schism, and has preserved and maintained true orthodox principles both as to church and state; and I desire the clergy, and all members of the Revolution church, to consider what bottom they stand upon, when their succession is grounded upon an unlawful and invalid deprivation of Catholic bishops, the only foundation of which deprivation is a pretended act of parliament.

Having asked forgiveness for myself, I come now to forgive others, I pardon those, who, under a

notion of friendship, persuaded me to plead guilty, I heartily forgive all my most inveterate enemies, especially the elector of Hanover, my lord Townsend, and others, who have been instrumental in promoting my death. Father, forgive them ! Lord Jesus, have mercy upon them ! and lay not this sin to their charge.

The next thing I have to do, Christian friends, is, to exhort you all to return to your duty. Remember that king James the Third is your only rightful sovereign, by the laws of the land, and the constitution of the kingdom; and therefore, if you would perform the duty of justice to him, which is due to all mankind, you are obliged, in conscience, to do all you can to restore him to his crown: for it is his right; and no man in the world, besides himself, can claim a title to it. And as it is your duty to serve him, so it is your interest; for, till he is restored, the nation can never be happy. You see what miseries and calamities have befallen this nation, by the revolution; and I believe you are now convinced, by woeful experience, that swerving from God's laws, and thereby putting yourselves out of his protection, is not the way to secure you from those evils and misfortunes you are afraid of in this world. Before the revolution, you thought your religion, liberties and property in danger; and I pray you to consider how you have preserved them by rebelling: are they not ten times more precarious than ever? Who can say he is certain of his life or estate, when he considers the proceedings of the present administration? And as for your religion, is it not evident that the revolution, instead of keeping out Popery, has let in Atheism? Do not heresies abound every day? And are not the teachers of false doctrine

doctrine patronised by the great men in the government? this shews the kindness and affection they have for the church; and to give you another instance of the respect and reverence they have for it, you are now going to see a priest of the church of England murdered for doing his duty; for it is not me they strike at, so particularly, but it is through me they would wound the priesthood, bring disgrace upon the gown, and a scandal upon my sacred function. But they would do well to remember, that he who despises Christ's priests, despises Christ; and he who despises him, despises him that sent him.

And now, beloved, if you have any regard to your country, which lies bleeding under these dreadful extremities, bring the King to his undoubted right: this is the only way to be freed from these misfortunes, and to secure all those rights and privileges which are in danger at present. King James has promised to protect and defend the church of England: he has given his royal word to consent to such laws which you yourselves shall think necessary to be made for its preservation; and his majesty is a prince of that justice, virtue, and honour, that you have no reason to doubt of the performance of his royal promise: he studies nothing so much as to make you all easy and happy, and whenever he comes to his kingdom, I doubt not but you will be so.

I shall be heartily glad, good people, if what I have said has any effect upon you, so as to be instrumental in making you perform your duty. It is out of my power now to do any thing more to serve the King, than by employing some of the few minutes I have to live in this world in praying Almighty God to shower down his blessings, both spiritual and temporal, upon his head; to protect
and

and restore him; to be favourable to his undertaking; to prosper him here, and to reward him hereafter. I beseech the same infinite goodness to protect and defend the church of England, and to restore it to all its just rights and privileges; and lastly, I pray God to have mercy upon me, pardon my sins, and receive my soul into his everlasting kingdom, that with the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs, I may praise and magnify him for ever and ever. Amen.

As to my body, brethren, I have taken no care of it, for I value not that barbarous part of my sentence, of being cut down and quartered. When I am once gone, I shall be out of the reach of my enemies; and I wish I had quarters enough to send to every parish in the kingdom; to testify that a clergyman of the church of England was martyred for being loyal to his King.

July 13, 1716.

WILLIAM PAUL."



Account of JOHN HALL, Esq. who was executed at *Tyburn*, for *High Treason*.

JOHN HALL, Esq. was a justice of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and having been taken prisoner with the other rebels at Preston, was brought to London, and indicted for having joined, aided, and abetted the rebels.

Two evidences deposed that he was seen at different places with the rebels: but in his defence he said, that having been to a meeting of the justices at Plainfield, he had lodged at a friend's house, and that on the following day, while he was stooping on his horse's neck, to screen himself from the tempestuous weather, himself and his servant were surrounded by the rebels, who forced them away: and that he was unarmed,

and

and had only seven shillings and sixpence in his possession.

Though this circumstance was sworn to by Mr. Hall's servant, yet the court, in the charge to the jury, observed that "if a man was seen with rebels, yet if it appeared, that he had frequent opportunities of escaping, and did not do it, but continued by his presence to abet and comfort them, it was treason within the meaning of the law."

Now as it appeared in evidence that Mr. Hall had liberty to ride out when he pleased, and did not seem to be restrained, the jury found him guilty: and when the court passed sentence on him he said, "God's will be done."

After conviction he was attended by a non-juring clergyman; and behaved with manly fortitude under his misfortunes: however he made such interest that he obtained five short reprieves, and might possibly have been pardoned; but that having written the following speech some weeks before his death, the knowledge thereof is supposed to have reached the court; for when a nobleman made application for a pardon, he was answered, "By no means, my good lord: it were a pity Mr. Hall, should lose the opportunity of leaving such a speech behind him, as he gives out will raise the spirits of the whole nation to be of the same mind with him, and will be instrumental in bringing in the person whom he calls his lawful sovereign king James the third."

Mr. Hall was executed at the same time and place with Mr. Paul; and a few minutes before he was turned off, he delivered a paper to the sheriff, which is as follows:

"Friends,

“ Friends, Brethren, and Countrymen,
I AM come here to die, for the sake of God,
 my king, and my country; and I heartily re-
 joice that I am counted worthy of so great an
 honour: for let not any of you think that I am
 come to a shameful and ignominious end: the
 truth and justice of the cause for which I suffer,
 makes my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour.
 Remember that I lay down my life for asserting
 the right of my only lawful sovereign king James
 the Third; that I offer myself a victim for the
 liberties and happiness of my dear country, and
 my beloved fellow-subjects; that I fall a sacrifice
 to tyranny, oppression, and usurpation. In short,
 consider that I suffer in the defence of the com-
 mand of God, and the laws, and hereditary con-
 stitution of the land; and then know, and be as-
 sured, that I am not a traitor, but a martyr.

I declare that I die a true and sincere member
 of the church of England, but not of the revo-
 lution schismatical church, whose bishops have so
 rebelliously abandoned the king, and so shame-
 fully given up the rights of the church, by sub-
 mitting to the unlawful invalid lay-deprivations
 of the prince of Orange. The communion I die
 in, is that of the true catholic nonjuring church of
 England, and I pray God to prosper and increase
 it, and to grant (if it be his good pleasure) that
 it may rise again, and flourish.

I heartily beg pardon of all whom I have in any
 manner, and at any time, injured and offended.
 I do particularly implore forgiveness of God and
 my king, for having so far swerved from my duty,
 as to comply with the usurpation, in swearing
 allegiance to it, and acting in public posts by
 the usurper's commissions, which were void of all
 power and authority. God knows my heart, I
 did

did this at first through ignorance and error, but after I had recollected myself, and informed my judgment better, I repented, and drew my sword for the king, and now submit myself to this violent death for his sake. I heartily pray God my patience and my sufferings may atone for my former crime; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and sufferings of my dearest Saviour Jesus Christ.

I do sincerely forgive all my enemies, especially those who have either caused or increased the destruction in church or state; I pray God have mercy upon them, and spare them, because they are the works of his own hands, and because they are redeemed with his Son's most precious blood. I do, particularly, forgive from the bottom of my heart, the elector of Brunswick, who murders me; my unjust pretended judges and jury, who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Carnaby, evidences who swore against me at my trial. And I do here declare, upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow prisoners can testify the same) that the evidence they gave was so far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that, in relation to my indictment, they swore not one true thing against me, but many absolute falsehoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am sure I do.

Lastly, I forgive all who had a hand in the surrender at Preston, for they have surrendered away my life; and I would to God that were the only bad consequence of it. But, alas! it is too plain that the surrenderers not only ruined many of his majesty's brave and faithful subjects, but gave up their king and country into the bargain:

for it was then in their power to have restored the king with triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulsed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able to have attacked them.

On our side, even our common men were brave, courageous, and resolute: on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, insomuch, that after they had run away from our first fire, they could never be brought so much as to endeavour to stand a second. This I think myself obliged in justice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impose upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquered them, our superiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us; I wish them God's and the king's pardon for it.

May it please God to bless, preserve, and restore our only rightful and lawful sovereign king James the Third; may he direct his counsels, and prosper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and set the crown upon his head.

May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from those who for a reward would slay him innocent! may he grant him in health and wealth long to live; may he strengthen him, that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, when it pleases his infinite wisdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himself, and reward him with an everlasting crown of glory in the next.

These, my beloved countrymen, are the sincere prayers, these the last words of me who am now a dying person; and if you have any regard to the last breath of one who is just going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal, to your only sovereign liege lord,
king

king James the Third; be ever ready to serve him, and be sure you never fail to use all your endeavour to restore him; and whatever the consequence be, remember that you have a good cause, and a gracious God, and expect a recompence from him.

To that God, the God of truth and holiness, the rewarder of all who suffer for righteousness sake, I commend my soul, beseeching him to have mercy upon it, for the sake of my dear Redeemer, and merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.

July 13, 1716.

JOHN HALL.

Postscript.

I might reasonably have expected my life would have been saved, since I had obtained five reprieves; but I find that the Duke of Hanover, and his evil counsellors who guide him, have so little virtue and honour themselves, that they are resolved not to spare my life, because I would not purchase it upon base and dishonourable terms. I have reason to think, that at first I could have secured my life and fortune, if I would have pleaded guilty; and I doubt not but I might since have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile, scandalous manner: but I was resolved to do nothing whereby I should have disowned my king, and denied my principles; and I thank my good God, both for inspiring me with this holy resolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.

July 13, 1716.

Having now finished our narrative of persons executed on account of the rebellion, we will make some general remarks.

The crime of rebellion is of a most atrocious nature, because, in case of its success, it tends to involve the innocent in one general ruin with the guilty. It oversets the established and legal forms of government, and introduces anarchy and confusion, where all before was order and decorum. The rebellion of which we are writing was fomented against a prince, seated on the throne by the right of succession, confirmed by the laws of the land.

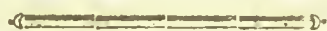
There is, indeed, something of an excuse to be offered for some of those who engaged in it, preferably to others. Those who were bred Roman Catholics might naturally be supposed to wish for a prince of their own persuasion to reign over them. But, good God! for Protestants to think of being governed by a Popish prince, what an absurdity! Do not we know that it is one great maxim in the Roman Catholic religion, to keep no faith with heretics? And what sort of treatment could Protestants expect from a prince whose religion teaches him that there is no salvation without the pale of his own church, and consequently that his subjects are doomed to everlasting perdition?

Power is a fascinating thing; and princes in general are apt enough to stretch it to the utmost. This being the common case, it can be little matter of wonder that a Popish prince should be an absolute tyrant over that subject whom he considers as already reprobated by heaven!

From the guilty madness and horrid fate of the unhappy malefactors before us, let us learn gratitude to heaven for the reformation, which relieved us from the errors and blindness of Popery: let us be thankful that the laws of our country have
esta-

established that regal succession of a family educated in the rational doctrines of the Protestant religion, a religion that, while it seeks heaven by the ready road, allows full liberty of conscience to all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own minds.

We have no more right to quarrel with a MAN for differing from us in sentiments, than for the colour of his eye-brows: but Britons should be cautious never to think of admitting a SOVEREIGN to rule over them whose difference of faith may tempt him to invade their liberties, civil or religious!



Account of JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. who was tried in *Scotland* for *Murder*, and beheaded.

THIS offender was born in the county of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law; but the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission, but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars, prevented their generous intention taking effect.

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentleman at Edinburgh, he lost considerable sums at gaming; and going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any farther sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow, to meet his companions

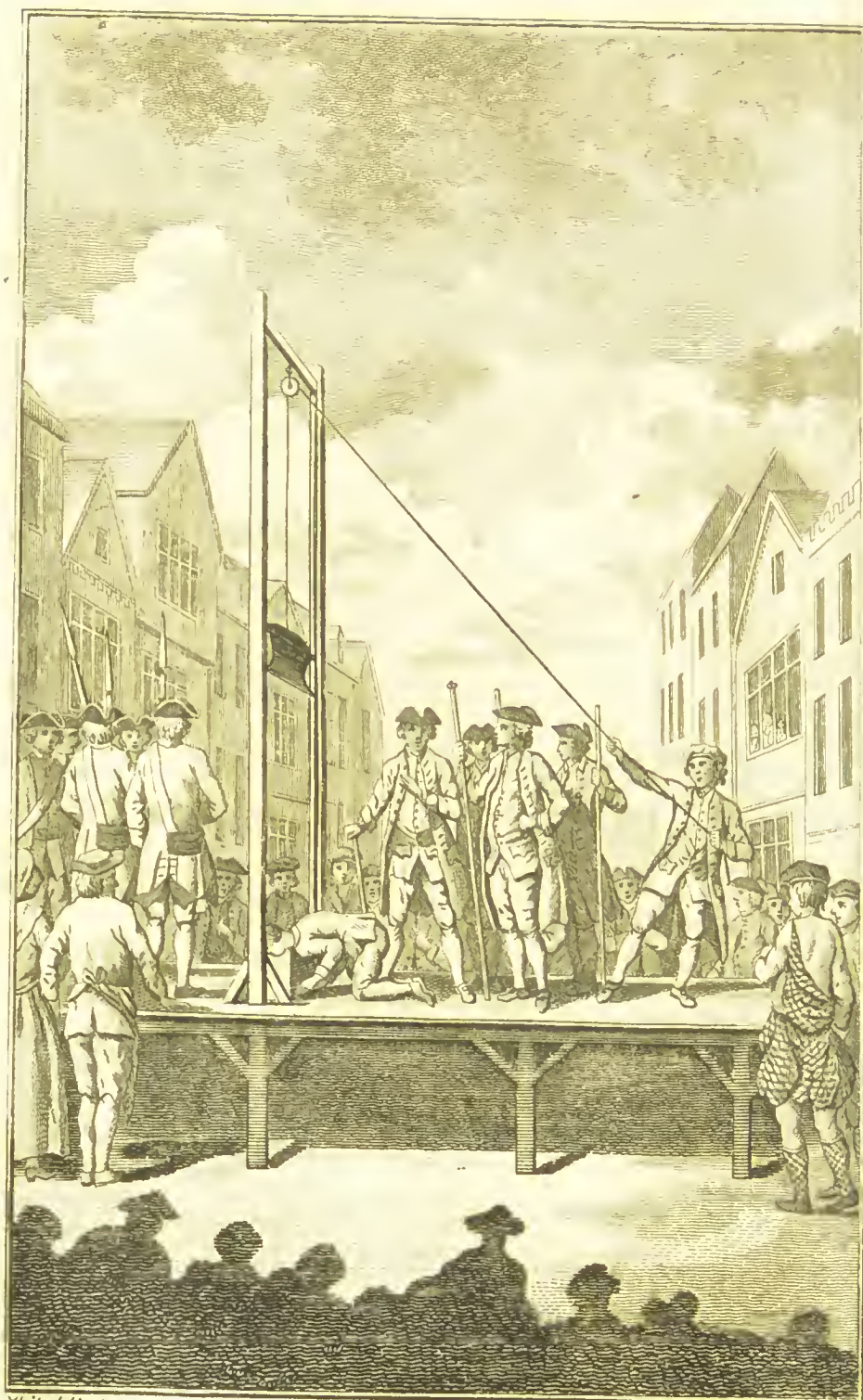
at a public-house kept by Thomas Arkle. Having drank and gamed for several successive days and nights, Hamilton's companions left him while he was asleep, leaving him to discharge the bill, which exceeding his ability, a quarrel ensued between him and Arkle, and while they contended, Arkle stripped Hamilton's sword from the scabbard. The latter immediately ran away, but finding he had no scabbard to his sword, he instantly went back to the house, when Arkle calling him several scandalous names, he stabbed him so that he instantly expired.

The daughter of Arkle being present, attempted to seize Hamilton; in doing which she tore off the skirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his sword, on his effecting a second escape. This daughter of Arkle was almost blind; but her keeping the sword, and the skirt of the coat, proved the means of bringing Hamilton to justice.

The murderer having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ship, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents-dying in the interval, he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into custody on account of the murder.

On his trial, he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed; to which he was infligated by the extreme ill-usage he had received from Arkle. The jury, not allowing the force of these arguments, found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be beheaded by the MAIDEN, to give a description of which instrument may be grateful to our readers.

The town of Halifax in Yorkshire having been antiently famous for the manufacture of woollen cloths, a law was made for the protection of the property of the manufacturers, by which it was
ordained



Thalwell del.

W. P. sculp.

Execution of John Hamilton Esq. by the Machine
called THE MAIDEN, at Edinburgh.

ordained that persons convicted for stealing cloth from the tenter-grounds, should be executed immediately after being convicted before two justices of the peace*.

The machine by which persons thus convicted were executed, was constructed in the following manner: “ Two strong wooden beams were fixed
“ on a scaffold, and between them, in a transverse
“ form, ran another beam, to the lower side of
“ which was fixed a sharp instrument in the form
“ of a chopping-knife, with a large quantity of
“ lead on the upper part. The criminal put his
“ neck between the two side-beams, and the
“ cross-beam being drawn by a pulley, was suf-
“ fered to fall down; and the head was severed
“ from the body in a moment.”

The earl of Morton, regent of Scotland, returning from the court of Queen Elizabeth in the year 1574, saw this machine at Halifax, and had a model taken of it, with a view to the execution of such of the Scottish nobility as should oppose his measures; but it happened that his lordship was the first who suffered by this mode of execution: whence it was called the MAIDEN.

After this many persons of rank in Scotland were executed by this machine; but Mr. Hamilton, of whom we are now writing, was the last who yielded his life in this manner; and the instrument of death is now kept in a room adjacent to the council-chamber of Edinburgh.

After

* Whatever necessity there might appear for enacting the law in question, we cannot but lament that any Englishman should suffer without the formality of a trial by jury.

After Mr. Hamilton received sentence of death, his friends made great interest to procure a pardon ; but their endeavours proving ineffectual, he suffered death, by the mode abovementioned, on the 30th of June, 1716.

At the place of execution he owned that he had killed Arkle, but presumed to think he was justified on the principle of self-defence.

Mr. Hamilton's case will teach us to reflect on the sad consequences of keeping bad company, and an attachment to gaming. But for these vices, he might have lived happy in himself, and a credit to the worthy family from which he was descended. The youth who will devote those hours to the gaming-table, which he ought to employ in the honest advancement of his fortune, can expect only to be reduced to beggary at the best : but in a thousand instances, as well as the present, the consequences have been much more fatal.

Hence let young gentleman learn to shun the gaming-table as they would a pestilence ; to proceed in the plain path of honour and integrity, and to know that there can be no true happiness in a departure from the line of virtue !



Account of the Life of JAMES GOODMAN,
who was hanged at Tyburn for *Horse-Stealing*.

THIS offender, who was about thirty-two years of age at the time of his unhappy exit, was a native of Little Harwood, in Buckinghamshire, and served his time to a carpenter at Aylesbury. After he was out of his time, he and two other young men agreed to have a veni-
son

son pasty, and make merry; in consequence of which they stole a deer; but being taken into custody, one of them turned evidence, whereupon Goodman and the other were imprisoned a year in Aylesbury gaol.

After his enlargement he married and entered into business, which he carried on with success for about nine years; but becoming fond of idle company, he was soon so reduced in circumstances that he brought himself and family to ruin.

Coming to London, he got into company with one Stephens, with whom he agreed to commit robberies on the highway. Pursuant to this plan they stopped Philip White, between Stratford and Ilford in Essex; and robbed him of his horse, one shilling, and his spurs.

Four days after this robbery Mr. White saw Goodman on his horse at Bow, in the company of Stephens, who was likewise on horseback. Hereupon Mr. White sent his servant to demand the horse; on which the robbers galloped off, but were immediately pursued by Mr. White and his man. Finding themselves hard pressed, they quit-
ted their horses, and ran into the field: on which Mr. White gave his servant a gun, and bid him follow them. He did so: on which one of them fired twice, and said, "d—n it, we'll kill or be
" killed; we won't be taken alive: our lives are
" as good as theirs." On this Mr. White's servant fired his gun, which was loaded with pebble stones; and striking Goodman on the head, he was so stunned that he was easily taken; and some other persons now coming up, one of them drew a hanger and pursued Stephens, who submitting after a short resistance, both the prisoners were conveyed to Newgate.

Stephens having been admitted an evidence against Goodman, the latter was brought to his trial, when he endeavoured to prove that he was in another place when the robbery was committed, and that he had purchased Mr. White's horse: but the jury found him guilty, as they did not believe the testimony of his witnesses.

After conviction he was put into the bail-dock, in order to receive sentence: but the night being dark, and being assisted by some other prisoners, he got over the spikes, and, though he was loaded with irons, effected his escape.

But it was not long before he was re-taken, owing to a very singular circumstance. While in custody, he delivered some money to a carrier to take into the country to a woman with whom he had cohabited; but the carrier, considering his situation, kept the money for his own use.

Wherefore, about a month after his escape, Goodman went to an alehouse in Holborn, and sent for a lawyer, to concert with him how to recover the money of the carrier: but some persons in the house happening to know him, went to Newgate, and informed the keepers where he was; on which he was taken into custody, after a desperate resistance; and at the end of the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he received sentence of death.

While he lay in this deplorable situation he acknowledged his guilt, confessed he had committed many robberies, lamented the iniquities of his past life, and wished he could make reparation to those whom he had injured. He was executed at Tyburn on the 12th of March, 1716.

The fate of this malefactor will afford an useful lesson to persons somewhat advanced in life. After having been nine years in a successful business,

ness, the keeping of bad company induced him to his ruin. Hence we may learn the folly of departing from the sober comforts of domestic felicity, to keep company with drunkards, and riot in debauchery. The circumstance of Goodman's being seen at Bow, on the very horse he had stolen but a few days before, on the same road, shews the folly that, almost in every instance, attends thieves. They are generally detected by some omission or carelessness of their own, which even a child would blush to be guilty of: but the fact is, that villany is frequently off its guard, and the eye of Providence is ever watchful to bring the guilty to justice.

This doctrine cannot be set in a clearer light, than by Goodman's going to advise with a lawyer how to recover the money of the carrier; not reflecting that he himself was a dead man, in the eye of the law, at the very time of making this application, which led so soon to his own destruction. Hence we see the emphatical force of that text of scripture, "The wicked is taken in his own snare."



Narrative of the Case of JOSEPH STILL, who was hanged at *Stamford-hill*, for *Murder*.

THIS man came to London in search of a livelihood, and for some time maintained himself by selling poultry in the streets; but growing weary of that employment, he enlisted into the army, in which he continued nine years; but having obtained his discharge, he became acquainted with a set of thieves who committed depredations in the neighbourhood of London; and

being apprehended, he was tried at the Old Bailey, and whipped:

Soon after he obtained his liberty, he returned to his former way of life; and being taken into custody in Hertfordshire, he was tried, convicted, and punished by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing higlers on the highway, and he obtained the appellation of Chicken Joe, from his singular dexterity in that employment.

After continuing in this way of life a considerable time, he commenced footpad, and committed a great number of robberies on the roads near town, escaping detection for a long while, on account of his wearing a mask over his face.

At length almost all his companions were hanged. and he was reduced to such distress that he went once more on the road, to supply himself with the means of procuring the necessaries of life. Having drank at an alehouse in Kingsland-road till his spirits were somewhat elevated, he proceeded to Stoke-Newington, and after sauntering a while in the fields, without meeting with any person whom he durst venture to attack, he went into Queen Elizabeth's walk, behind the church, where he saw a gentleman's servant, whose money he demanded. The servant being determined not to be robbed, contested the matter with Still, and a battle ensuing, the villain drew a knife, and stabbed the footman through the body.

He immediately ran away: but some people coming by while the footman was sensible enough to tell them what had happened, Still was pursued, taken, and brought to the spot where the other was expiring; and being searched, the bloody knife with which he had committed the deed was found in his pocket. The man died,
after



*Man publicly Whipped in the Sessions House Yard
in the Old Bailey.*



MARQUIS OF PALEOTTI—for *Murder*. 229

after declaring that Still was the murderer; and the latter was committed to Newgate; and being indicted at the Old Bailey, the jury did not scruple to find him guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death, and was executed on Stamford-hill, on the 22d of March, 1717.

The progression of this malefactor seems to have been very gradual, from smaller to greater crimes, till at length his life paid the forfeit for one of the most enormous. Hence let us be taught the danger of indulging the least propensity to an evil act. The commission of one crime naturally leads to that of another, till the criminal is involved in distress and misery, from which there is no hope of relief!

Learn then to tread in honour's path,
Nor quit the laws of God;
So may you hope to 'scape his wrath,
Nor dread his vengeful rod.



Account of FERDINANDO, Marquis de PALEOTTI, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for the *Murder* of his Servant.

THE marquis de Paleotti was born at Bologna in Italy, and in the reign of queen Anne was a colonel in the Imperial army.

The cause of his coming to England arose from the following circumstance. The duke of Shrewsbury being at Rome in the latter end of King William's reign, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to, the sister of Paleotti; and the lady following the duke to Augsburgh in Germany, they

they were there married, after she had first renounced the Roman Catholic religion. The dutchess residing with her husband in England, and the marquis having quitted the Imperial army, on the peace of Utrecht, he came to this country to see his sister.

Being fond of an extravagant course of life, and attached to gaming, he soon ran in debt for considerable sums. His sister paid his debts for some time, till she found it would be a burthen some and endless task. Though she declined to assist him as usual, he continued his former course of life, till he was imprisoned for debt; but his sister privately procured his liberty, and he was discharged without knowing who had conferred the favour on him.

After his enlargement he adopted his old plan of extravagance; and being one day walking in the street, he directed his servant, an Italian, to go and borrow some money. The servant, having met with frequent denials, declined going; on which the marquis drew his sword, and killed him on the spot.

Being instantly apprehended, he was committed to prison, tried at the next sessions, and being convicted on full evidence, he received sentence of death. The duke of Shrewsbury being dead, and his duchess having little interest or acquaintance in England, it appears as if no endeavours were used to save the marquis, who suffered at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1718.

After sentence, he lamented that the churches of England did not afford a sanctuary to murderers, as those of Italy do; and he seemed to think it a great hardship that he should suffer death as a common malefactor, for murdering his servant.

Exclu-

MARQUIS OF PALEOTTI—for *Murder*. 231

Exclusive of this, his behaviour was extremely proper. He petitioned the Recodrer that he might suffer alone, before the other malefactors; and the sheriff gave orders accordingly. When the day of execution drew near he wished to protract his term of life even for a few hours; but this was a favour that could not be granted, as the orders were positive; wherefore he was carried from Newgate to the place of execution soon after six in the morning, and having made a short speech in French, he delivered a letter to be given to his sister, in which he implored her pardon for the repeated trouble he had occasioned her.

The marquis of Paleotti seems to have fallen a sacrifice to his own ungovernable passions, joined to the prejudice of education. How absurd is that religion of Rome which permits the church to be the sanctuary of the murderer! and how thankful ought Protestants to be, that their lives cannot be taken away, and the murderer screened, through the chicanery of priestcraft. We deem the church the temple of the living God: and shall this temple be profaned by the protection of murderers? Strangeiy ridiculous is the idea!

From the fate of Paleotti and the late earl of Ferrers, we may learn that in the punishment of crimes of this enormous magnitude, the law makes no distinction between those of very exalted, and very inferior rank; and that the peer and the peasant must equally submit to its awards.

In this instance we see two reasons for being thankful that we are born in this land of liberty: our religion is purer, and our laws are more equitable than those of any people in the universe. While we are grateful to God for these bounties,
may

may we be anxious to transmit them, unimpaired;
to the latest posterity!



Remarkable Case of JAMES SHEPPARD, who
was executed at Tyburn, for *High-Treason*.

THIS malefactor having been much the subject of public conversation, and his crime being of a very singular kind, we shall endeavour, in our account of him, to give every possible satisfaction to the reader.

James Sheppard was the son of Thomas Sheppard, a capital glover in Southwark; but his father dying when he was about five years of age, he was sent to school in Hertfordshire, whence his uncle, Dr. Hinchcliffe, removed him to Mitcham in Surry, and afterwards to Salisbury, where he remained at school three years. Being at Salisbury at the time of the rebellion, he imbibed the principles of his school-fellows, many of whom were favourers of the Pretender; and he was confirmed in his sentiments by reading some pamphlets which were then put into his hands.

When he quitted Salisbury, Dr. Hinchcliffe put him apprentice to Mr. Scott, a coach-painter, in Devonshire-street, near Bishopsgate; and he continued in this situation about fourteen months, when he was apprehended for the fact which cost him his life.

Sheppard having conceived the idea that it would be a praise-worthy action to kill the king, wrote a letter, which he intended for a nonjuring minister of the name of Leake; but mistaking the spelling, he directed it, "To the Reverend Mr.
Heath."

“Heath.” This letter, a copy of which follows, he carried to Mr. Leake’s house.

“Sir,

FROM the many discontents visible throughout this kingdom, I infer, that if the prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be settled on his throne, without much loss of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propose that if any gentleman will pay for my passage into Italy, and if our friends will intrust one so young with letters of invitation to his majesty, I will, on his arrival, smite the usurper in his palace. In this confusion, if sufficient forces may be raised, his majesty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himself till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it presumptuous to hope that this may succeed, if we consider how easy it is to cut the thread of human life; how great confusion the death of a prince occasions in the most peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how desirous of a change. But we will suppose the worst, that I am seized, and by torture examined. Now that this may endanger none but myself, it will be necessary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy leave England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his majesty’s abode; that I lodge with some whig; that you abscond, and that this be communicated to none. But be the event as it will, I can expect nothing less than a most cruel death; which that I may the better support, it will be requisite that, from my arrival till the attempt, I every day receive the holy sacrament from one who shall be ignorant of the design.

JAMES SHEPPARD.”

Mr. Leake was absent when this letter arrived, but on his return he read it; on which he said to his daughter and maid-servant that it was a most villainous letter, and not fit to be kept; and, in the height of his resentment, he threw it into the fire, and went up into his study; but coming down soon afterwards, his daughter told him that she had recollected that the boy who had brought the letter said he would call for an answer on the following Monday.

Hereupon Mr. Leake determined to make the affair known to Sir John Fryer, a neighbouring magistrate, which he did the following morning; when Sir John advised him to take the party into custody when he should return for the answer. Sheppard came at the time that he had promised; when Mr. Leake sent for a constable and had him apprehended.

Being carried before Sir John Fryer, he was asked if he had delivered a letter at Mr. Leake's on the preceding Friday, directed to the Rev. Mr. Heath. He answered in the affirmative; and being asked if he had a copy of that letter; he said he had no copy about him, but he believed he could remember it, so as to write a copy. This being done, and he having deliberately read and signed what he had written, was committed to the Compter.

Three gentlemen were now sent to the house of the prisoner's master, and being shewn his trunk, they found, among some other papers, a copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leake's, which differed very little from that written at Sir John Fryer's, only that these words were added: "How meritorious an act will it be to free these nations from an usurpation that they have lain under these nine and twenty years;" and it was insinuated

JAMES SHEPPARD—for *High-Treason*. 235

nuated that he thought it requisite, that while his majesty (the Pretender) should be absent from Avignon, "some person should be found resembling him, that should personate him there, " lest the rumour of his departure from Avignon " should awaken this inquisitive and suspicious " court."

Soon after Sheppard's commitment he was twice examined at the office of lord Sunderland, then secretary of state; when he attempted to justify his conduct, and readily signed what he had before written.

When he was brought to his trial, he behaved in the most firm and composed manner; and after the evidence against him was given, and the jury had brought him in guilty of high-treason, he was asked why sentence should not be passed on him according to law, when he said, "He could " not hope for mercy from a prince whom he " would not own." Then the recorder proceeded to pass sentence on him, which he prefaced with the following most pathetic speech:

"James Sheppard, you are convicted according " to law of the greatest offence against human " authority, high-treason, in compassing and imagining the death of the king. Your intent was " to kill, to murder, and basely assassinate his majesty king George, in order to place a Popish " pretender on his throne.

"It is very surprising that one so young in " years should attempt so wicked an enterprize; " and it is more amazing that you should still " thus defend and justify it, and not only think " that there is no harm in it, but that the action if " committed would have been meritorious.

" It was reasonable to think that you had re-
 " ceived those impressions which incited you to
 " this undertaking from some of those false and
 " malicious libels which have been industriously
 " dispersed to delude unwary readers, and to
 " alienate the minds of his majesty's subjects;
 " and it appears to be so from your own confession,
 " that you had imbibed your principles from
 " sermons and pamphlets, which make you think
 " king George an usurper, and the Pretender your
 " lawful king.

" Consider, 'unhappy young man, whether
 " you may not be in an error; and what I now
 " suggest to you is not to reproach you, or to
 " aggravate your crime, but proceeds from com-
 " passion, and with a regard to your further con-
 " sideration before you go out of the world; that
 " you may be convinced of your error, and re-
 " tract it.

" The notions you entertain are contrary to
 " the sense of the nation; who found by expe-
 " rience that their religion, their laws and liber-
 " ties were in imminent danger from a Popish
 " prince, and therefore they rescued themselves
 " from that danger, and excluded Papists for the
 " future from the crown; and settled it on his
 " majesty and his heirs, being Protestants; which
 " has been confirmed by many parliaments, and
 " the nation feels the good effects of so happy an
 " establishment.

" It seems strange, that you should hint at a
 " passage in St. Paul for your justification. If
 " he exhorted the Christians to submit to the
 " Roman emperors, even though they should be
 " tyrants, how comes it that you, a private youth,
 " should not only judge of the title of kings, in
 " oppo-

“ opposition to the sense of so many parliaments ;
 “ but that you should think yourself authorized
 “ to murder a prince in peaceable possession of the
 “ throne, and by whom his subjects are protected
 “ in the enjoyment of all their rights and privi-
 “ leges, and of every thing that is dear and valu-
 “ able to mankind.

“ You mention in your papers as you must
 “ expect the most cruel tortures. No, unfortunate
 “ youth, the king you will not own uses no cruel
 “ tortures to his subjects. He is king according
 “ to the laws of the land, and by them he governs,
 “ and as you have transgressed those laws in the
 “ highest degree, the public justice requires that you
 “ should submit to the sentence ordained for such
 “ an offender, which is,

“ That you be led from hence to the place from
 “ whence you came ; from thence you are to be
 “ drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution.
 “ and there you are to be hanged by the neck, and
 “ being alive to be cut down, your bowels to be
 “ taken out of your belly, and there burnt, you
 “ being alive : your head is to be cut off, and
 “ your body to be divided into four quarters, and
 “ your head and quarters to be disposed of as his
 “ majesty shall think fit. And God Almighty
 “ have mercy on your soul.”

After sentence was passed, Sheppard confessed that the reading some sermons, and other pamphlets, had induced him to think that it would be a meritorious act to kill the king ; and that he was convinced he was the agent destined by Providence to accomplish the deed. The ordinary of Newgate told him, that he should have prayed that such wicked sentiments might be removed from

from his mind. His reply was, that "he had
 " prayed; and that in proportion as he prayed, he
 " was so much the more encouraged and con-
 " firmed in the lawfulness of his design."

The unhappy youth was now visited by a non-juring clergyman, between whom and the ordinary there were repeated quarrels, which continued almost to the last moments of Sheppard's life; for they wrangled even at the place of execution; nor did the debate cease till the ordinary quitted the cart, and left the other to instruct and pray with the malefactor as he thought proper.

Sheppard was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1718, a few hours after the fatal exit of the marquis of Palcotti.

To what reflections we have made at the close of our narratives respecting the persons executed on account of the rebellion, little need be said in this place, since the conduct of all the parties seem to have been animated by the same motive; the wish, the absurd wish, to place a Roman Catholic prince to reign over a Protestant people.

On Sheppard's being first taken into custody; many people were of opinion that he was a lunatic; but the calm coolness of his subsequent conduct is a full proof to the contrary: he seems to have acted upon principle, from the force of conviction. Hence, then, we ought to detest the doctrines of those who could teach that it was lawful to commit murder; murder of the most aggravated kind; the destruction of a king who succeeded to the throne by legal right, and ruled on the principles of justice and equity.

It is needless to inform those who are at all read in history that these kingdoms were never governed with so mild a sway as since the accession of the illustrious house of Hanover to the throne

throne of these realms; and Providence seems to have promised, by the singular encrease of his majesty's family, a perpetuation of the crown in the Brunswick line for a succession of ages. That it may be for a long succession will be the ardent prayer of all those who wish well to the civil and religious rights of mankind!

Account of the Trial and Execution of JOHN PRICE, otherwise JACK KETCH, who was hanged for *Murder*; with some Particulars of his Life.

JOHN Price was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 24th of April, 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth, the wife of William White, on the 13th of the preceding month.

In the course of the evidence it appeared that Price met the deceased near ten at night in Moorfields, and attempted to ravish her; but the poor woman (who was the wife of a watchman, and sold gingerbread in the streets) doing all in her power to resist his villainous attacks, he beat her so cruelly that streams of blood issued from her eyes and mouth, broke one of her arms, beat out some of her teeth, bruised her head in a most dreadful manner, forced one of her eyes from the socket, and otherwise so ill-treated her that the language of decency cannot describe it.

Some persons, hearing the cries of the unhappy creature, repaired to the spot, took Price into custody, and lodged him in the watch-house; and conveyed the woman to a house, where a surgeon and nurse were sent for to attend her. Being unable to speak, she answered the nurse's questions
by

by signs, and in that manner described what had happened to her. She died, after having languished four days.

The prisoner, on his trial, denied being guilty of the fact; and said, that as he was crossing Moor-fields, he found something lying in his way; that he kicked at it, but discovering that it was a woman, he lifted her up, but she could not stand on her legs; and he said that he was taken into custody while he was thus employed. This defence, however, could not be credited, from what some former evidences had sworn; and the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty.

After sentence of death was passed on him, he abandoned himself to the drinking of spiritous liquors,* to such a degree as rendered him totally incapable of all the exercises of devotion. He obstinately denied the fact till the day of his execution, when he confessed that he had been guilty of it; but said that the crime was perpetrated when he was in a state of intoxication. He was executed in Bunhill-fields, on the 31st of May, 1718, and in his last moments, begged the prayers of the multitude, and hoped they would take warning by his untimely end. He was afterwards hung in chains near Holloway.

This offender was born in the parish of St. Martin in the Fields, and while he was very young his father was blown up at the demolishing of Tangier. His mother being left in circumstances of distress, was not able to give him a proper education; but she put him apprentice to a dealer in rags. Having served about two years, his master died,

* Since the fate of this man, we have had a law to prevent the carrying spiritous liquors into prisons.



() JACK KETCH ARRESTED ()
*and taken into Custody, when attending a
Statefactor to the place of Execution.*

died, and he soon afterwards ran away from his mistress, and got employment in loading waggons with rags for other dealers. After this he went to sea, and served on board several ships in the royal navy for the space of about eighteen years; but at length he was paid off, and discharged from the service.

The place of public executioner becoming vacant by death, he accepted of it, and might have continued in it but for his own extravagance; for spending more money than his income, he ran in debt; and one day, as he was returning from an execution at Tyburn, he was arrested in Holborn for a trifling sum. However, he discharged this debt, and the cost, partly with a small sum of money he had in his pocket, and partly by the produce of three suits of cloaths, which he had taken from the bodies of poor wretches who had been that day executed.

Soon after this two other writs were taken out against him, when having no money, nor being able to procure bail, he was obliged to go to the Marshalsea Prison, where he continued till after the following sessions at the Old Bailey, when William Marvel was appointed executioner in his stead. Having continued some time longer in the Marshalsea, he and a fellow-prisoner broke a hole in the wall, through which they made their escape; and soon after this, Price committed the horrid murder for which his life paid the forfeit.

One would imagine that the dreadful scenes of calamity to which this man had been witness, if they had not taught him humanity, would at least have given him wisdom enough not to have perpetrated a crime that must necessarily bring him to

a similar fatal end to what he had so often seen of others: but perhaps his profession tended rather to harden his mind otherwise..

'The murder of which Price was guilty appears to have been one of the most barbarous and unprovoked we ever remember to have read of: and his pretence that he was drunk when he perpetrated it, was no sort of excuse; since drunkenness itself is a crime, and one which frequently leads to the commission of others.

The lesson to be learnt from the fate of this man is to moderate our passions of every kind; and to live by the rules of temperance and sobriety. We are told, from the best authority, that "hands
" that shed innocent blood are an abomination to
" the Lord."

Narrative of the Case of Mr. EDWARD BIRD, who was executed for Murder.

MR. BIRD was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who having first sent him to Westminster School, then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy, and on his return to England was honoured with the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse.

Before he had been long in the army he began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime which cost him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial, that he had
taken

taken a woman of the town to a bagnio in Silver-street, where Loxton was a waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready; but Loxton being busy, sent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of passion, made several passes with his sword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand: but the prisoner ran after him, threw him down stairs, and broke some of his ribs. On this, the master and mistress of the house and Loxton went into the room, and attempted to appease him: but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, seized his sword, which lay by the bed-side, and stabbing Loxton, he fell backwards, and died immediately; on which the offender was taken into custody, and committed to Newgate.

He was to have been tried in October, but pleading that he was not ready with his defence, the trial was put off to December; and then till January, on his physicians making affidavit that he was too ill to be removed from his chamber.

Being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death; but great interest being made in his behalf, he was reprieved, and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of transportation, but for the intervention of the following circumstance.

The friends of Loxton hearing that a reprieve was granted, advised his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the court of King's-Bench; and she went thither with some friends, to give security for that purpose; but the relations of Bird hearing what was intended, were ready in court, with witnesses to depose that this was the second wife of Loxton, his first being still living. This be-

ing the fact, the court refused to admit the appeal; as the second could not be a lawful wife.

This affair occasioned so much clamour that Bird was ordered for execution on Monday the 23d of February; on the night preceding which he took a dose of poison; but that not operating as he had expected, he stabbed himself in several places. Yet, however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn in a mourning coach, attended by his mother, and the Ordinary of Newgate.

As he had paid little attention to the instructions of the Ordinary while under confinement, so he seemed equally indifferent to his advice in the last moments of his life. Being indulged to stay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was put into the cart, where he asked for a glass of wine; but being told it could not be had, he begged a pinch of snuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wishing health to those who stood near him. He then rehearsed the apostle's creed, and being tied up, was launched into eternity, on the above-mentioned 23d of February, 1719.

He was executed in the 27th year of his age. He declined making any speech, but delivered the following paper to his friends the day before his execution.

“ **I**T will be expected that I shall say something at this time, as to the fact I am going to suffer for.

I do not pretend to say, I did not kill the deceased; but humbly conceive, that both the laws of God and man will justify self-defence; which I call God to witness, into whose arms of mercy I am now going to throw myself, was my case.

Unhappy

Unhappy is that gentleman who falls into such hands; for there was not one evidence for the king that was not manifestly perjured, as I have faithfully set forth in my printed case; with all the justice a person expecting nothing less than death was capable of. And it is also as evident, that the proper evidences on my side were never called: I wish I could persuade myself that mismanagement did not proceed from the infidelity of my attorney, employed on my trial: for it appears but too evident, that he never made one regular step towards my interest; and, I wish I could aver that he did not arm my enemies against me.

After all this, his Majesty, in his great wisdom, thought fit to grant me a reprieve, and ordered me for transportation; but the restless malice of my enemies would not fix here.

The pretended widow of the deceased lodges an appeal against me. How she had a right so to do, I leave those gentlemen learned in the law to determine: yet this, with her fallacious petition, found entrance to the Royal Fountain, and turned that former stream of mercy from me; causing his majesty to recede from his first decree of mercy, and order my execution: under which sentence I still, with all humility, submit.

Another reflection, I am credibly informed, is cast upon me, in order to make my load the greater: which is, that I was frequently visited, during my confinement, and even since my conviction, by lewd and infamous women. I cannot say that I have not been visited by divers women; but do not know them to be such: some of them were relations, and other persons, who had business with me relating to my unhappy circumstances. What cannot malice invent.

There

There is one thing more which I omitted in my printed case, relating to my adversary's evidence; deposing, that the deceased Loxton fell without the door: which I declare solemnly, is utterly false; for what was done was in the room; I was not off from my bed when the accident happened: and when he dropped, he fell backwards upon the bed.

I might take notice of many more false aspersions, but will omit them; having, I thank my God, forgiven them all.

In the next place, it will be expected that I say something of my religion.

I declare, that I die a Protestant, and of the communion of the church of England, whose doctrine teaches me to forgive my enemies, which sincerely I do: humbly begging, at the same time that all those, who through inadvertency, heat of blood, or any juvenile folly, I have offended, will do the same to me.

As for the manifold reflections cast upon me since my confinement; the pretended widow's violent prosecution; the Farrier's notoriously false affidavit, and all other offences committed against me, I heartily forgive them.

And to conclude, I wish all gentlemen would only weigh the fatal cause of my unhappy exit, and avoid all such houses where the scene of this misfortune was first laid: let me be an example to them, to avoid those rocks I have split upon; that they may, with less difficulty than I have found it, be able to compose their thoughts, (which I thank God I have done) through the assistance of his divine Spirit, and sink into a willing resignation of his divine will.

EDWARD BIRD.

This

This unfortunate youth seems to have fallen a sacrifice to the irregularity and violence of his own passions: to the pride of his heart, and his love of lawless pleasure. Hence let the youth who read this be taught to walk in the plain paths of sobriety and discretion, “neither turning aside to the right hand nor the left.” His taking poison and stabbing himself, to defeat the execution of the law, is a strong proof of that pride of heart we have mentioned. He could be guilty of a crime deserving the utmost ignominy, but dreaded to sustain it. Humility, then, is another doctrine to be learned from the fate of this man.

The situation of Bird’s mother, in her attending him to Tyburn, must have been dreadful beyond all expression! Mr. Bird had been well educated, and ought to have made a different return to the care of his parents. Women in general, however, should consider that it is by a religious education that the mind of the child is most likely to be guarded from the contaminations of vice. The sacred maxim will hold good in most instances: “train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart therefrom.”

Singular Case of CATHERINE JONES, who was tried for Bigamy, and acquitted.

CATHERINE JONES was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 5th of September, 1719, for marrying Constantine Boone, during the life of her former husband, John Rowland.

Proof

Proof was made that she was married to Rowland, in the year 1713, at a house in the Mint, Southwark, and that six years afterwards, while her husband was abroad, she was again married, in the same house, to Constantine Boone; but Rowland, soon returning to England, caused his wife to be indicted for this crime.

The prisoner did not hesitate to acknowledge the double marriage, but insisted that the latter was illegal, as Boone was an hermaphrodite, and had been shewn as such at Southwark and Bartholomew fairs, and at other places.

To prove this a person swore that he knew Boone when a child, that his (or *her*) mother dressed *it* in girls apparel, and caused *it* to be instructed in needle-work, till it had attained the age of twelve years, when it *turned man, and went to sea.*

These last words were those of the deposition; and the fact was confirmed by Boone, who appeared in court, acknowledged being an hermaphrodite, and having been publicly shewn in that character.

Other witnesses deposed that the female sex prevailed over that of the male in the party in question: on which the jury acquitted the prisoner.

It is impossible to describe how much this affair was the subject of the public conversation at, and long after, the time that it happened: and it would be idle to make any serious remarks on it. We can only express our astonishment that an hermaphrodite should think of such a glaring absurdity as the taking a wife!

Narrative of the Trial and Execution of JOHN MATTHEWS, a Printer, who was hanged for High-Treason.

JOHN MATTHEWS was the son of a printer in Aldersgate-Street, to whom he was apprenticed; but his father dying, he continued to serve with his mother. Having made connections with some persons of Jacobitical principles, he printed some papers against the government, for which he was once taken into custody; but the evidence being incomplete, he was dismissed.

Encouraged by this escape, he was induced to print a pamphlet, entitled “*Ex ore tuo te Judico: Vox populi, vox Dei**.” For this offence he was brought to his trial, on the 30th of October, 1719, when it appeared that he had composed the pages of the pamphlet in question, but locked them up, lest they should be found, and made use of to his prejudice.

An elder brother of Matthews, apprehending that the youth might endanger himself by his propensity to the printing such pamphlets, directed a journeyman, named Lawrence Vezey, to lock up the door of the printing-house every night, and bring him the key: but Vezey, like a villain as he was, first suffered the young fellow to print the supposed treasonable matter, and then gave evidence against him.

A general warrant being granted by the secretary of state, for the search of Mrs. Matthews’s

* That is, “Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee:—The Voice of the People is the Voice of God.”

house, the officers of government found a number of the supposed libel in a room which the prisoner acknowledged to belong to him; on which he was carried before the secretary of state, who committed him to Newgate, on his refusing to give up the author.

When Matthews was arraigned at the bar, Vezey swore that the prisoner brought the form, containing part of the book, to the press, and bid him pull a proof of it; which he did, and that the prisoner afterwards came down to him, and said that the pages had been transposed, but he had now put them right; and he then pulled him another proof; he said that then the prisoner desired this evidence to come early in the morning to work off the sheets, saying that he himself would take care of the paper, and that every thing should be ready.

Accordingly Vezey went early one morning, intending to call up William Harper, the apprentice; but the prisoner came to the door, let him in, and called Harper, who assisted Vezey in working off the sheets, Matthews standing by, and taking them from the press, for the greater expedition: and when the work was done the prisoner paid Vezey for his trouble. This evidence was likewise confirmed by Harper, as far as he was concerned in the transaction, and he added that he saw the prisoner composing the matter * from the manuscript copy.

The council for the crown exerted their utmost

* "Composing the matter" is a term with printers, which signifies picking up the letters, and arranging them in proper order for their being worked off by the printing-press.

abilities to aggravate the crime of the prisoner, and the king's messengers swearing to as much as they knew of the affair, Matthews was found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him.

After condemnation he was attended by the Reverend Mr. Skerrett, who also accompanied him to the place of execution. His whole behaviour after sentence was such as might be expected from one who had too much sense to expect favour from the people then in power: for it was not customary with the ministers of George the first to extend mercy to persons convicted of treasonable offences: but perhaps their seeming want of humanity will appear the more excusable, if we reflect on the fatal consequences that might have ensued from the rebellion in 1715.

But nothing can excuse the method they took to obtain evidence in this case. It is but of late years that the issuing of general warrants has been legally condemned; and Englishmen are not a little obliged to a man, who (whatever his faults may be) has procured the condemnation of these warrants. Happily, we can now sit quietly, and write our sentiments in our own houses, without being liable to have our papers seized by the arbitrary mandates of a secretary of state. While we recollect that we are obliged for this favour in a great degree to the perseverance of Mr. Wilkes, we should not forget that the judicial determination of Lord Camden perfected the plan so happily begun, and so steadily pursued.

The above-mentioned John Matthews was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1719, before he had completed the 19th year of his age; and was pitied by every one who had not lost the common feelings of humanity.

From the fate of Matthews young gentlemen in the same line of business should be taught to be cautious how they engage in the printing of political pamphlets; for though, to the credit of the good sense and humanity of the present age, there is now much less danger than there formerly was, yet recent experience has taught us that great trouble and expence may ensue, where all risk of life is out of the question.

We should all pray that we may live to see the time when the liberty of the press will be established in its fullest extent; and when no villain will dare to be guilty of an atrocious action, but some honest man shall dare to tell him of it in public. By this, however, ~~we~~ we do not mean to encourage the *licentiousness* of the press—Detested be the heart that should dictate, and the hand that should write a line to destroy domestic happiness, or corrode the mind of one worthy individual: but the public villain should be ever held up an object of the public scorn and censure!

Account of the Life and Trial of THOMAS BUTLER, Esq. who was executed for a Robbery on the Highway.

MR. BUTLER was a native of Ireland, his father being an officer in the army of king James the second; but king William having defeated that prince at the battle of the Boyne, young Butler and his father went with James to France: but when the rebellion broke out in Scotland the young gentleman was employed as a spy

spy in the family of the duke of Ormond, for which he was allowed 20*l.* a year : but he hereby lost the favour of his friends and relations, who espoused a different interest. From Paris he went to Holland, where he soon spent most of the money in his possession, and then embarked for England.

On his arrival in this country he commenced highwayman, and went out frequently in company with a man whom he called Jack, and who occasionally acted as his servant; and they jointly committed a great number of robberies near London, particularly in Kent and Essex.

When they were in London, and sometimes in a country town, they had the genteelest lodgings, and then Jack wore a livery, while the 'Squire was dressed in a most elegant manner, and had all the appearance of a man of fortune.

By this style of living they continued their depredations on the highway for some years; but Butler being at length apprehended, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, in January, 1720, when he was indicted for robbing Sir Justinian Isham and another gentleman on the highway, of a gold watch, a silk night-gown, six Holland shirts, and other valuable articles; and was convicted on the clearest evidence.

The circumstance that led to his detection, was, that offering some of the effects for sale to a jeweller, he refused to purchase them unless he knew Butler's place of residence, which the latter readily told him; and when his lodgings were searched, Sir Justinian's gown was found, and was produced in court. Butler's companion, or servant, was in Ireland at the time of his detection, by which he escaped the fate he had deserved.

While

While Mr. Butler lay under sentence of death, he behaved in a very penitent manner. Being a Roman Catholic, he received the sacrament from a priest of his own persuasion. It had been reported that he had eight wives; but this he solemnly denied, declaring that he was legally married to only one woman.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1720, at the age of 42 years.

There are few highwaymen who have lived in such a style of elegance as Butler; and by his mode of proceeding he eluded justice for a considerable time, as he used to dress in black velvet, laced ruffles, and all the other apparatus of a gentleman. Yet justice at last found him out, and detected him while in the full career of his wickedness.

Hence let those who are tempted to the commission of acts of illegality, learn that the steps of justice, though they may be slow, are sure; that it is almost impossible for guilt to escape detection, and that vengeance is the more terrible the longer it is dreaded, and the longer it is delayed.

Amidst all those gaities of life that may be procured by fraudulent means, the heart must be perpetually corroded by grief, and agitated by fear. The life of honesty is the only life of peace or safety. Let us never forget to "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God."

Account of WILLIAM SPIGGOT and THOMAS PHILLIPS, who were hanged for robbing on the Highway.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of January, 1720, William Spiggot and Thomas Phillips were indicted for committing several robberies on the highway; but they refused to plead, unless the effects taken from them when they were apprehended were returned: but this being directly contrary to an act of the 4th and 5th year of king William and queen Mary, entitled, “An act for encouraging the apprehending of highwaymen,” the court informed them, that their demand could not be complied with.

Still, however, they refused to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the absurdity of such an obstinate procedure: on which the court ordered, that the judgment ordained by law in such cases, should be read; which is to the following purpose:

“That the prisoner shall be sent to the prison
 “from whence he came, and put into a mean
 “room, stopped from the light, and shall there
 “be laid on the bare ground, without any litter,
 “straw, or other covering, and without any garment about him, except something to hide his
 “privy members.—He shall lie upon his back,
 “his head shall be covered, and his feet shall be
 “bare. One of his arms shall be drawn with a
 “cord to one side of the room, and the other
 “arm to the other side; and his legs shall be
 “served in the like manner. Then there shall be
 “laid upon his body as much iron or stone as he
 “can bear, and more. And the first day after he
 “shall

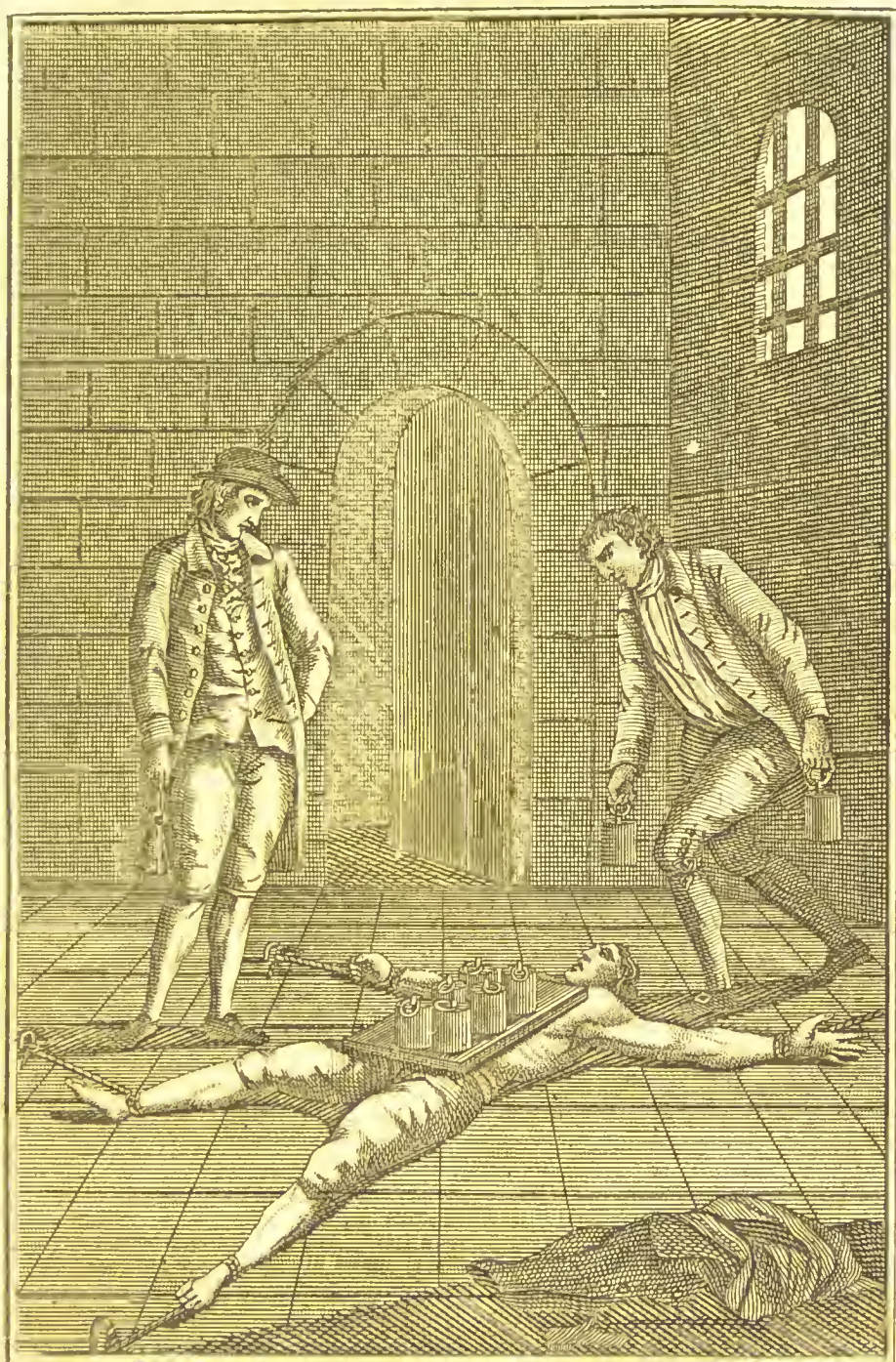
“ shall have three morsels of barley bread, with-
 “ out any drink ; and the second day, he shall be
 “ allowed to drink as much as he can, at three
 “ times, of the water that is next the prison-door,
 “ except running water, without any bread ; and
 “ this shall be his diet till he dies : and he, against
 “ whom this judgment shall be given, forfeits his
 “ goods to the King*.”

The reading of his sentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be pressed to death : but when they came into the press-room, Phillips begged to be taken back to plead, a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him : but Spiggot was put under the press, where he continued half an hour with three hundred and fifty pounds weight on his body, but, on the addition of fifty pounds more, he likewise begged to plead.

In consequence hereof they were brought back and again indicted, when the evidence being clear and positive against them, they were convicted, received sentence of death, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1723.

WILLIAM SPIGGOT, who was about twenty-seven years of age when he suffered, was a native of Hereford, but coming to London, he apprenticed himself to a cabinet-maker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles Sybbald, on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the

* By an act passed in 1772, it is determined that persons refusing to plead, shall be deemed guilty, as if convicted by a jury : an alteration that does honour to modern times.



Vanproden.

Roberts sculp.

*The Punishment formerly inflicted on those
who REFUSED PLEADING to an Indictment.*



evidence of Joseph Linsey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party. One Burroughs a lunatic, who had escaped from Bedlam, was likewise concerned with them, but afterwards publicly spoke of the affair, which occasioned their being taken into custody; and when it was known that Burroughs was disordered in his mind, he was sent back to Bedlam.

THOMAS PHILLIPS, aged thirty-three years, was a native of Bristol, totally uneducated, and being sent to sea when very young, he served under Lord Torrington*, when he attacked and took the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, near the harbour of Cadiz.

Phillips returning to England, became acquainted with Spiggot and Linsey, in company with whom he committed a great number of robberies on the highway. Phillips once boasted that he and Spiggot robbed above an hundred passengers one night, whom they obliged to come out of different waggons, and having bound them, placed them by each other on the side of the road: but this story is too absurd to be believed.

While under sentence of death Phillips behaved in the most hardened and abandoned manner; he paid no regard to any thing that the minister said to him, and swore or sung songs while the other prisoners were engaged in acts of devotion; and towards the close of his life, when his companions became more serious, he grew still more wicked; and yet, when at the place of execution, he said, “he did not fear to die, for he “was in no doubt of going to Heaven.”

*The father of the late unfortunate Admiral Byng.

The lesson of instruction to be drawn from the fate of these malefactors will be compromised in a few words. As the law now stands, no other criminal can ever undergo the punishment that Spiggot sustained; and we hope no other will ever behave in so hardened a manner as Phillips did. It is horrid to think of a man's jesting with sacred matters at any time; but particularly so when he knows himself to be on the verge of eternity. The character of Linsey ought to be held in universal contempt. The clergyman who could desert the duties of his sacred function to join with highwaymen, and then become an evidence to convict them, must be an object of detestation to every honest man!

Narrative of the Case of BARBARA SPENCER, who was hanged for High-Treason.

IN the month of May, 1721, Barbara Spencer, Alice Hall, and Elizabeth Bray, were indicted at the Old Bailey, for High-treason, in counterfeiting the current coin of the kingdom; when Hall and Bray were acquitted, as being only agents to the other, and Spencer being found guilty, was sentenced to be burnt.*

The account that Barbara Spencer gave of herself was in substance as follows. That she was born in the parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, and being naturally of a violent temper, her mother was too indulgent to restrain her in a pro-

*Women convicted of high, or petit-treason, are always thus sentenced; but they are first tied to a stake, and strangled before they are burnt.

per

per manner. At length her mother finding her quite unmanageable at home, put her apprentice to a mantua-maker, who having known her from a child, treated her with great kindness.

Barbara had served about two years, when on a dispute with her mistress she went home to her mother, with whom she had not long resided before she insisted on having a maid kept, to which the old woman consented. A quarrel soon happening between Barbara and the maid, the mother interposed: on which the daughter left her for a time, but soon returned again.

Not long after this it happened that some malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara insisted on going to see the execution. This was prudently opposed by her mother, who struggling to keep her at home, struck her; but the daughter getting out of the house, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and from thence to a house near St. Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that she would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe that she might live in an easy manner, if she would but follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed; and as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, for which she was detected, tried, fined and imprisoned.

Not taking warning by what had happened, she returned to her old connections, commenced coiner herself, and was at length apprehended for the crime for which she suffered.

While under sentence of death she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty

of any crime in making a few shillings. She was for some time very impatient under the idea of her approaching dissolution, and was particularly shocked at the thought of being burnt; but at the place of execution she seemed willing to exercise herself in devotion; but was much interrupted by the mob throwing stones and dirt at her.

She was strangled and burnt at Tyburn, on the 5th of July, 1721.

The unhappy fate of this woman seems to have been occasioned by the violence of her temper, and a want of duty to her mother. Hence let all young people learn to keep their passions in subjection, and to remember the injunction in the fifth commandment; "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee:" for surely no crime is more likely to lead to destruction than that of disobedience to parents. It is the inlet to every other vice, and the source of a thousand calamities.

Let children that would fear the Lord
Hear what their teachers say;
With rev'rence meet their parents' word,
And with delight obey.

For those who worship God, and give
Their parents honour due,
Here on earth they long shall live,
And life hereafter too.

Case of MATTHEW CLARKE, who was hanged
for Murder.

THIS offender was the son of poor persons at St. Albans, and brought up as a plough-boy : but being too idle to follow his business, he sauntered about the country and committed frequent robberies, spending among women the money he obtained in this illegal manner.

Clarke had art enough to engage the affections of a number of young women, to some of whom he promised marriage ; and he seems to have intended to have kept his word with one of them, and went with her to London to tie the nuptial knot ; but going into a goldsmith's shop to buy the ring, he said he had forgot to supply himself with money, but would go into the country and fetch it.

The young woman staid in town while he went to Wilsden-Green, with a view to commit a robbery, that might replenish his pocket. As it was now the season of hay-making, he met a man who, wondering that he should be idle, gave him employment. Besides the business of farming, his employer kept a public-house, and had a servant-maid whom Clarke had formerly courted.

The villain leaving his fellow-labourers in the field, went to the house, and finding the girl only at home, conversed with her some time, but having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it securely without murdering her ; and while she was gone to draw him some beer he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpose ; and when she entered the room he got up to kiss her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conscience prevented him : on this
he

he sat down, and talked with her some time longer, when he got up, and again kissing her, cut her throat in the same instant.

Hereupon she fell down, and attempted to crawl to the door, while the blood streamed from her throat, on which the villain cut her neck to the bone, and robbing the house of a small sum, ran off towards London, under all the agonizing tortures of a wounded conscience.

Tyburn being in his way to town, he was so terrified at the sight of the gallows that he went back a considerable distance, till meeting a waggon, he offered his service in driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being suspected in case of a pursuit. But he had not gone far before some persons rode up, and asked him if he had seen a man who might be suspected for a murder. He seemed so terrified by the question, that the parties could not help noticing his agitation; and on a close inspection, they found some congealed blood on his cloaths, to account for which he said he had quarrelled and fought with a soldier on the road.

Being taken into custody, he soon acknowledged his crime, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate: and when brought to trial he pleaded guilty, in consequence of which he was executed at Tyburn on the 28th of July, 1721, and then hung in chains near the spot where he committed the murder.

There is something dreadfully enormous in the crime for which this man suffered. When under sentence of death he was one of the most miserable wretches that ever endured a situation so calamitous. Nor is this to be wondered at; for the murder he committed was one of the most unprovoked imaginable. It is probable, from the
affec-

affection the poor girl had for him, that she would have lent him a greater sum than he obtained by cutting her throat.

His terrors at the sight of the gallows, should teach those who are prompted to iniquity, to avoid all crimes that may lead to a fatal end. The wicked can never be happy; and it is only by a life of integrity, virtue and piety, that we can hope for the blessing of God, the applause of a good conscience, and “that peace of mind which passeth all understanding.”

Narrative of the singular Case of JOHN MEFF, who was hanged for returning from Transportation.

THIS offender had been taken into custody for committing a robbery near London: but as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace passed in the reign of king George the First, it was not thought necessary to indict him, and he would have been discharged without farther ceremony, but it appeared that he had been transported for another crime, and returned before the expiration of his time; wherefore he was indicted for this offence, on an act then lately made, “For the effectual transportation of felons;” and his person being identified, he was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of September, 1721.

The following is an account which he wrote between his condemnation, and the day of his execution,

“I was

“ I was born in London of French parents,
 “ who fled hither for protection, when the French
 “ Protestants were driven out of France by Lewis
 “ XIV.

“ I was put apprentice to a weaver ; my father
 “ having continued about twelve years in Eng-
 “ land, went with the rest of his family to Hol-
 “ land. I served my time faithfully, and with
 “ the approbation of my master. Soon after I
 “ came to work for myself I married ; but my
 “ business not being sufficient to maintain myself,
 “ my wife, and children, I was willing to try
 “ what I could at thieving.

“ I followed this practice till I was apprehend-
 “ ed, tried, and condemned, for house-breaking ;
 “ but, as I was going to the place of execution,
 “ the hangman was arrested, and I was brought
 “ back to Newgate. It was thought that this
 “ was my contrivance, to put a stop to public
 “ justice ; but I was so far from being any ways
 “ concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till it
 “ was done. This might have been a happy
 “ turn for me, if I had made a right use of it ; for
 “ my sentence of death was changed for that of
 “ transportation. And indeed I took up a solemn
 “ resolution to lead an honest and regular course
 “ of life, and to resist all the persuasions of my
 “ comrades to the contrary. But this resolution
 “ continued but a short time after the fear of
 “ death vanished.

“ I believe, however, that, if I had been safe
 “ landed in America, my ruin might have been
 “ prevented ; but the ship, which carried me and
 “ and the other convicts, was taken by the pirates.
 “ They would have persuaded me and some
 “ others to sign a paper, in order to become
 “ pirates ;

“ pirates ; but we refusing, they put me and eight
 “ more ashore, on a desert uninhabited island,
 “ where we must have perished with hunger, if
 “ by good fortune an Indian canoe had not ar-
 “ rived there. We waited till the Indians were
 “ gone up the island, and then, getting into the
 “ vessel, we sailed from one small island to an-
 “ other, till we reached the coast of America.

“ Not chusing to settle in any of the planta-
 “ tions there, but preferring the life of a sailor,
 “ I shipped myself on board a vessel that carried
 “ merchandize from Virginia and South-Caro-
 “ lina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his
 “ majesty’s islands. And thus I lived a consider-
 “ able time ; but at last, being over desirous to see
 “ how my wife and children fared in England, I
 “ was resolved to return at all adventures.

“ Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into
 “ my former wicked practices, and it was not
 “ long before I was committed to Newgate, on
 “ suspicion of robbing a person near London ;
 “ but, by the assistance of a certain bricklayer, I
 “ broke out of prison and went to Hatfield,
 “ where I lay concealed for some time ; but at
 “ last was discovered, and taken again by the
 “ same bricklayer who had procured my escape.
 “ Some evil genius attended me, I was certainly
 “ infatuated, or I had never continued in a place
 “ where I was so likely to be discovered.

“ My father is now a gardener at Amsterdam.
 “ ’Tis an addition to my misfortune, that I can-
 “ not see him and my mother before I die ; but
 “ I hope when he hears of my unhappy end, he
 “ will keep my children by my first wife from
 “ starving. My present wife is able by her in-
 “ dustry to bring up her own offspring ; for she

“ has been an honest careful woman, during the
 “ nine months I have been married to her, and
 “ has often pressed me to go over to Ireland, and
 “ lead a regular and sober life. It had been well
 “ for me if I had taken her advice.

“ I have had enough of this restless and tumult-
 “ tuous world, and hope I am now going to a
 “ better. I am very easy and resigned to the
 “ will of Providence, not doubting but I have
 “ made my peace with Heaven. I thank God
 “ that I have not been molested by my fellow-
 “ prisoners, with the least cursing or swearing in
 “ the condemned-hold; but have had an oppor-
 “ tunity of employing every moment of my time
 “ in preparing for a future state.”

REFLECTIONS.

The case of this malefactor is very extraordinary, and perhaps may never be equalled by that of any other. The narrow escape he had experienced from the gallows ought to have taught him more wisdom than to have returned from transportation before the expiration of his time; but one would think there is a fatality attending the conduct of some men, who seem resolutely bent on their own destruction.

One truth, however, is certain: It is easy, by a steady adherence to the rules of virtue, to shun that ignominious fate which is the consequence of a breach of the laws of God and our country!

Case of ARTHUR GRAY, who was convicted of a Burglary.

IN December, 1721, the prisoner was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of George Baillie, Esq. in the parish of St. James, West-

Westminster, with intent to ravish Grizel, the wife of Alexander Murray.

Mrs. Murray was the sister of Mrs. Baillie, and lived in the house of her brother-in-law, in the absence of her husband, who was a military officer.

It was sworn on the trial that about four in the morning of the 14th of October, the prisoner entered Mrs. Murray's room, with a drawn sword in one hand, and a pistol in the other, and threatened to kill her if she made any noise; that she asked him the meaning of such a procedure, to which he replied, "Madam, I mean to ravish you, for I have entertained a violent passion for you a long time; but as there is so great a difference between your fortune and mine, I despair of enjoying my wishes by any means but force."

On this the lady remonstrated with him; but persisting in his intention, he laid the sword on the bolster, and attempted to pull off the bed-cloaths; but Mrs. Murray pushed him against the wall, wrenched the pistol out of his hand, and rang the bell; on which the prisoner quitted the room; but she followed him to the door, and called out murder, by which the family were alarmed.

The servants now ran to the assistance of the lady, but Gray had got to his own room, and thrown himself on the bed with his cloaths on; and having been out in company the preceding evening, it does not appear that he was undressed during the night.

Being apprehended, and taken before a magistrate, he confessed that he entered the room with an intent to ravish the lady; but this he afterwards steadily denied; and various were the opi-

nions of the public respecting his guilt or innocence.

The prisoner, in his defence, said, that thinking he heard a noise in Mrs. Murray's room, he went down stairs and fetched a sword and pistol, and as the door stood partly open, he went in, and laying down his arms to look behind the bed, Mrs. Murray rang the bell, and alarmed the family.

The jury, having considered the evidence, brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death: but Mrs. Murray's relations interceding in his behalf, he was afterwards pardoned on condition of transportation.

This affair made a great noise at the time it happened, and many persons did not scruple to insinuate that Gray had been admitted to favours which might warrant his entering the lady's chamber at any hour.

REFLECTIONS.

The single reflection arising from this story is, that illicit pleasure leads to disgrace; there is no doubt but there was some foundation for this prosecution. If Gray had been previously too intimate with the lady, she was punished by the exposure of a public trial; if otherwise, he was punished for the attempt in the ignominy of a public conviction. Hence let it be learnt, that chastity is a virtue which cannot be prized at too high a rate!

The singular Case of NATHANIEL HAWES, who was hanged for a Robbery.

THE subject of this narrative was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701: Hawes's father was a grazier in ample

ample circumstances, but dying while the son was an infant, a relation in Hertfordshire took care of his education.

At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his master when he had served only two years of his time; for which he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, he was sentenced to seven years transportation.

But the sentence thus awarded against Hawes was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumstance. A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchasing, at a very low rate, such goods as he stole from his master: but when Hawes was taken into custody, he gave information of this affair, in consequence of which a search-warrant was procured, and many effects belonging to Hawes's master were found in Phillips's possession.

Hereupon application was made to the king, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence against Phillips, who was tried for receiving the stolen goods, and was transported for fourteen years.

We are sorry to relate the sequel of this tale. Hawes, during his confinement in Newgate, had made such bad connections as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals; and soon after his release he connected himself with a set of fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild; and having made a particular acquaintance with one John James, they joined in the commission of a number of robberies.

After

After an uncommon share of success for some days, they quarrelled on the division of the booty, in consequence of which each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus separated, Hawes, being apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed against his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into custody, tried, convicted, and executed.

Notwithstanding this conviction, the court sentenced Hawes* to be imprisoned in New-Prison, and that goal was preferred to Newgate, because the prisoners in the latter had threatened to murder Hawes, for being an evidence against James.

Soon after this commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and entering into partnership, committed a variety of robberies, particularly in the road between Hackney and Shoreditch. This connection, like the former, lasted but a short time: a dispute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occasioned a separation.

Soon after this dissolution of the partnership, Hawes went alone to Finchley-Common, where meeting a gentleman riding to town, he presented a pistol to his breast, and commanded him instantly to dismount, that he might search him for his money.

The gentleman offered him four shillings, on which Hawes swore the most horrid oaths, and threatened instant death, if he did not immediately submit. The gentleman quitted his horse, and in the same moment seized the pistol, which he

* By an act of the 4th and 5th of William and Mary, for the more effectual conviction of highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed; but the evidence cannot claim his liberty unless two or more of his accomplices are convicted; but may be imprisoned during the pleasure of the court.

he snatched from the hand of the robber, and presenting it to him, told him to expect death if he did not surrender himself.

Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been insolent, made no opposition; and the driver of a cart coming up just at that juncture, he was easily made prisoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate.

When the sessions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refused to plead to his indictment, alledging the following reason for so doing; viz. that he would die, as he had lived, like a gentleman: “The people (said he) who apprehended me, seized a suit of fine cloaths, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in; and unless they are returned I will not plead; for no one shall say that I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat.”

On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority; but this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death, whereupon he was taken from the court, and being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds weight about seven minutes; but unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated that he might be conducted back to the court, which being complied with, he pleaded “Not guilty;” but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was very improper for one in his situation. He told the other capital convicts that he would die like a hero; and behaved in the same thoughtless way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution: after which his conduct was not altogether so scandalous. He owned to the Ordinary of Newgate,
that

that he was induced to refuse to plead to his indictment, that the other prisoners might deem him a man of honour, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine cloaths.

He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed; but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchasing the stolen goods. He likewise owned that he had been base enough to inform against persons who were innocent, particularly a gentleman's servant, who was then in custody; but he did not discover many signs of contrition for this, or any other of his offences.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of December, 1721.

REFLECTIONS.

The inferences to be drawn from the case of this malefactor are obvious. By his informing against James, lest James should impeach him, we see how little confidence thieves can place in each other; and that partnerships in wickedness are sure to end in destruction.

From the resistance made by the gentleman whom Hawes attacked, and the consequent apprehension of the offender, we may fairly conclude that there is a cowardice naturally attached to guilt, which will almost infallibly favour the cause of the honest man.

Narrative of the Life and Trial of WILLIAM BURRIDGE, who was hanged for Horse-stealing.

THIS offender, was a native of Northamptonshire, and served his time with a carpenter; but giving full proofs of his knavish disposition, and having ruined several young women, his friends determined to send him to sea, as the

the most probable method to prevent his coming to a fatal end.

In consequence hereof they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain; but soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and, commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley-Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith.

When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him; but this time never arrived; for finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild,* of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves.

Burrige being confined in New-Prison for a capital offence, broke out of that goal; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigour of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild, when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him.

Alarmed by this circumstance, Burrige fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support; but the gentle-

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* A particular account of this notorious malefactor will appear in the course of this work.

man who had lost the horse, having sent a full description of it to London, Burridge was seen riding on it through the street, and watched to a livery stable.

Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him; by which he got off; but being immediately pursued, he was taken in May-Fair, and lodged in Newgate.

On his trial, a man and a woman swore that they saw him purchase the horse; but as there was a material difference in their stories, the court was of opinion, that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into custody for the perjury.

The jury did not hesitate to find Burridge guilty: and after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout, and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of March, 1722, in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of duty, and finally ended in his ruin.

REFLECTIONS.

The idea this unhappy man had conceived of leaving off robbing when he had obtained enough to support him, was ridiculous in the highest degree. Perhaps there never was a single instance of a thief retiring on the profits of his plunder. What is got in an illegal manner is always spent in debauchery and extravagance: but, supposing retirement was possible, could that man expect one moment of peace who had acquired his subsistence

sistance by acts of dishonesty? He could not eat a morsel of bread, or drink a draught of liquor, but he must reflect that it was not his own. His days would be wretched, and his nights sleepless; he would be terrified by every new face he saw; the fear of detection would be ever uppermost in his mind, and he would be perpetually tormented with the racking pains of a guilty conscience.

After this dreadful representation of facts, nothing need be added to convince youth that to tread in the path of virtue is the surest way to happiness; and that he who deviates from this path, is in the certain way to bring destruction on his own head!

Particulars respecting ARUNDEL COOKE, Esq. and JOHN WOODBURN, who were hanged for cutting and maiming Mr. CRISP.

THESE people suffered on what is called the Coventry Act, to understand which it will be necessary to recite a few particulars.

The Coventry Act took its rise from the following circumstance:—Sir John Coventry, in the reign of Charles the second, having opposed the measures of the court in the House of Commons, in revenge hereof some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent-Garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the members of both houses of parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained that “Unlawfully cutting out, or disabling
“ the tongue, of malice aforethought, or by
“ lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the
“ nose or lip, or cutting off or disabling any

“ limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy.”—By this law it is likewise enacted that “ Accessaries shall be deemed principals.” The parties whose crimes we are about to relate, were the first who were executed on this act.

Mr. Cooke was born near Bury St. Edmonds, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and when he had given him an university education, he sent him to the Temple to study the law, after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr. Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place.

Mr. Crisp being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the counsellor, in case the lady died before her husband.

It was not long after Mr. Crisp had made his will, before he recovered his health in some degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms.

However, he at length grew so impatient that he could not come into possession by the death of Mr. Crisp, that he resolved to remove him by murder; and for that purpose engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children,

dren, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan.

For this piece of service he promised to give Woodburne a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but reflections on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, tempted him to comply.

On this it was agreed, that the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening, and as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the tomb-stones, till Cooke gave him the signal for the attack, which was to be a loud whistle.

Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but declining to stay to supper, he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the church-yard by Cooke, who giving the agreed signal to Woodburne, the latter quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner; in which he was abetted by the counsellor.

Imagining that they had dispatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home; but he had not been arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Crisp knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dressed by a surgeon.

At the end of about a week he was so much mended as to be removed to his own house. He had no doubt but that Cooke was one of the persons

sons who had assaulted him: but had resolved not to speak of the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened.

The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion; when making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, when both of them were convicted.

When they were called up to receive sentence of death, Cooke desired to be heard; and the court complying with his request, he urged that
 “ Judgment could not pass on the verdict, be-
 “ cause the act of parliament simply mentions an
 “ *intention* to maim or deface, whereas he was
 “ firmly resolved to have committed murder.”

He quoted several law-cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the cause. The counsel for the crown opposed the arguments of Mr. Cooke, insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners.

Lord chief justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared that he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke’s plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge; “ for (said he) it would
 “ establish a principle in the law, inconsistent
 “ with the first dictates of natural reason; as the
 “ greatest villain might, when convicted of a
 “ smaller offence, plead that the judgment must
 “ be arrested, because he intended to commit a
 “ greater. In the present instance (said he),
 “ judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention
 “ is

“ is naturally implied, when the crime is actually
“ committed.”

His lordship said, that “ Crisp was assassinated
“ in the manner laid in the indictment; it is
“ therefore to be taken for granted that the in-
“ tention was to maim and deface; wherefore
“ the court will proceed to give judgment:”
and accordingly sentence of death was passed on
the prisoners.

After condemnation, Cooke employed his time
principally in endeavours to procure a pardon;
and when he found his expectations fail him, he
grew reserved, and would not admit even the visits
of his friends. On the contrary, Woodburne was
all penitence and contrition, sincerely lamenting the
crime he had been guilty of, and the miserable
situation in which he left his poor children.

A short time before the day of execution,
Cooke wrote to the sheriff, requesting that he
might be hanged in the night, to prevent his be-
ing exposed to the country-people, who were ex-
pected from all the adjacent towns and villages;
and, in consequence hereof, he was hanged at four
o'clock in the morning, and Woodburne was exe-
cuted in the afternoon of the same day. The lat-
ter behaved with every sign of penitence; but
Cooke's conduct was very unfeeling, and he ab-
solutely refused to confess his crime.

These malefactors were executed at Bury St.
Edmonds, on the 5th of April, 1722.

REFLECTIONS.

Serious reflections may well be made on the
above melancholy tale. The baseness of Cooke's
heart must render him an object of detestation to
every feeling mind. Of all the vices that can
degrade humanity, covetousness is one of the
meanest.

meanest. The very wish to possess what is not our right, implies a degree of dishonesty; but the man whose covetous disposition can instigate him to the thought of committing murder, is below the beast that perish, and ought to be ranked with the infernal fiends.

What must have been Cooke's thoughts on the Christmas-day, when he was entertaining his brother-in-law with an appearance of friendship and hospitality, yet had determined to murder him! Neither the sanctity, nor the decent festivity of the season, could compose or cheer a mind bent on the perpetration of so horrid a deed. The case of this man will teach us the force of the commandment, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

With regard to Woodburne, though not an object of pity, he is less an object of detestation than Cooke. His large family, and distressed circumstances were temptations. He might say, in the words of the poet,

My Poverty, but not my Will consents.

Still, however, his crime was of an aggravated nature, for no temptation should induce a man to embroil his hands in the blood of a fellow-creature. How dreadful to think of rushing into eternity with the crime of murder on the head! May the preventing grace of God preserve us all from the perpetration of so shocking a deed! May we live in a continual sense of our duty, and seek to make our own lives comfortable by acts of compassion and humanity to our fellow-creatures!

Short

Short account of JOHN HARTLEY and THOMAS REEVES, who were hanged for a robbery.

THESE offenders were tried for stopping a journeyman taylor in the fields near Hoxton, and robbing him of two-pence and his cloaths; and because he had no more money, they beat him most inhumanly, stript him; and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched situation some persons coming by unbound him, and took him to an alehouse, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his cloaths; and described the persons of the robbers to the best of his power.

These circumstances were heard by a fiddler, who going next day into a public-house in Fore-street, saw the fellows offering to sell the taylor's coat. The fiddler immediately proposed to be the purchaser, gave earnest for it; and pretending he had not money enough, said he would fetch the difference; instead of which he brought the party robbed, who knowing the footpads, they were taken into custody.

The evidence on their trial was so plain; that the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was unbecoming persons in their unhappy circumstances: That of Reeves was particularly hardened; he would sing and swear while the other convicts were at prayers, yet he told the ordinary that he was certain of going to heaven.

The most curious circumstance arising from the detection of these offenders, was the singular method that Hartley took to save his life. He procured six young women, dressed in white, to go to St. James's and present a petition in his behalf. The singularity of their appearance gained them admission, when they delivered their petition, and told the king, that if he extended the royal mercy to the offender, they would cast lots which should be his wife: but his majesty said that he was more deserving of the gallows than a wife, and accordingly refused their request.

As they were going to execution, the ordinary asked Reeves if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies; "No, (said he) she is a worthy woman, whose first husband happening to be hanged, I married her, that she might not reproach me by a repetition of his virtues."

At the fatal tree Reeves behaved in the most hardened manner, affected to despise death, and said he believed he might go to heaven from the gallows as safely as from his bed.

These offenders suffered at Tyburn, on the 4th of May, 1722.

We see, in the instance of these malefactors, from what a casual circumstance their detection arose. A man hears a description of them in a public-house; the next day he went accidentally into another alehouse, where he saw them offering the stolen goods for sale; and, by an honest deception, procured their being taken into custody. The poor fiddler had no interest in their detection but what arose from his abhorrence of vice; yet he was so regardful of what he had heard, that he became the immediate instrument of bringing them to justice.

Hence

HAWKINS and SIMPSON—for Robbery. 283.

Hence let us learn to admire the inscrutable mysteries of the providence of God, which, as they surpass our finite comprehension, should excite our wonder and our gratitude. Nothing can be hid from the all-seeing eye of heaven; and the man that commits a crime with the hope of concealing it, does but treasure up a fund of uneasiness for his own mind: for even if the crime should be concealed from the public, he will be perpetually harrassed with the corroding stings of a guilty conscience, and at all times carry with him a hell in his own bosom!

Narrative of the remarkable Actions of JOHN HAWKINS, and GEORGE SIMPSON, who were executed for robbing the Bristol Mail, and hung in Chains.

AS the crime for which these malefactors suffered is very pernicious in its own nature, and their other transactions made a great noise in the world at the time they took place, we propose to give a particular account of them.

JOHN HAWKINS was the son of a poor farmer at Staines, who not being able to afford to educate him properly, he went into the service of a gentleman, which he soon quitted, and lived as a waiter at the Red Lion at Brentford; but leaving this place, he again engaged as a gentleman's servant.

After living in different families, he became butler to Sir Dennis Dutry, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. Indeed his person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to fre-

quent gaming tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected that he was the thief; for which reason he was discharged without the advantage of a good character.

Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow-Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, where he lost it all.

He continued to rob alone for some time, losing at the gaming houses what he obtained at so much risk; and he then engaged to rob with other highwaymen; but the same fate still attended him: he lost by gaming, what he got by thieving, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and then sneak off without paying his reckoning.

Several of Hawkins's old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in chancery; but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-tables. Those associates having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them; but acquitted for want of evidence; though Wilson, in an account published after Hawkins's condemnation, confesses they were guilty.

Immediately after this Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then

then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law: but having lost his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains; but one of these being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon dispersed the gang, but not till some of them had made their exit at Tyburn; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley-Common, and shot one of the servants so that he died on the spot.

His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond Lane, from whom they took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of 100l. was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins failed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds.

Hawkins returning to England, joined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered 60l. reward to Wild; but the robbers having no connection with that execrable villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expence.

Hawkins and his associates next stopped Mr. Hide of Hackney in his coach, and robbed him of 10l. and his watch, but missed 300l. which the gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmoreland's coach in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch; but

but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connection, caused some of the gang to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves.

On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery; and 100*l.* reward was offered to discover the offender: and a poor taylor being taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped, merely because he was of whiggish principles.

Wilson and Hawkins returning to London, and the former coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for 350*l.* a small part of which he lent to his companions, to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table.

The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, who both fired at once, by which three flugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London, with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde-Park; but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the Park wall, to effect his escape.

This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to return to his former practices.

While

While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with George Simpson, of whom we shall have occasion to relate more in the course of this narrative.

Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey. Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but on his arrival he found that the story of the impeachment was false.

When in London they formed connections with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-house at London-Wall, the master of which kept a livery stable, so that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages, as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery stable.

In this practice they continued a considerable time, till they were apprehended for robbing the mail, which we shall have occasion to mention in the sequel.

GEORGE SIMPSON was a native of Putney in Surry. His father was a wine-merchant, but being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer; but quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to Lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places.

He now became acquainted with Hawkins, in company with whom he stopped the carriage of Richard West, Esq. behind Buckingham house,
from

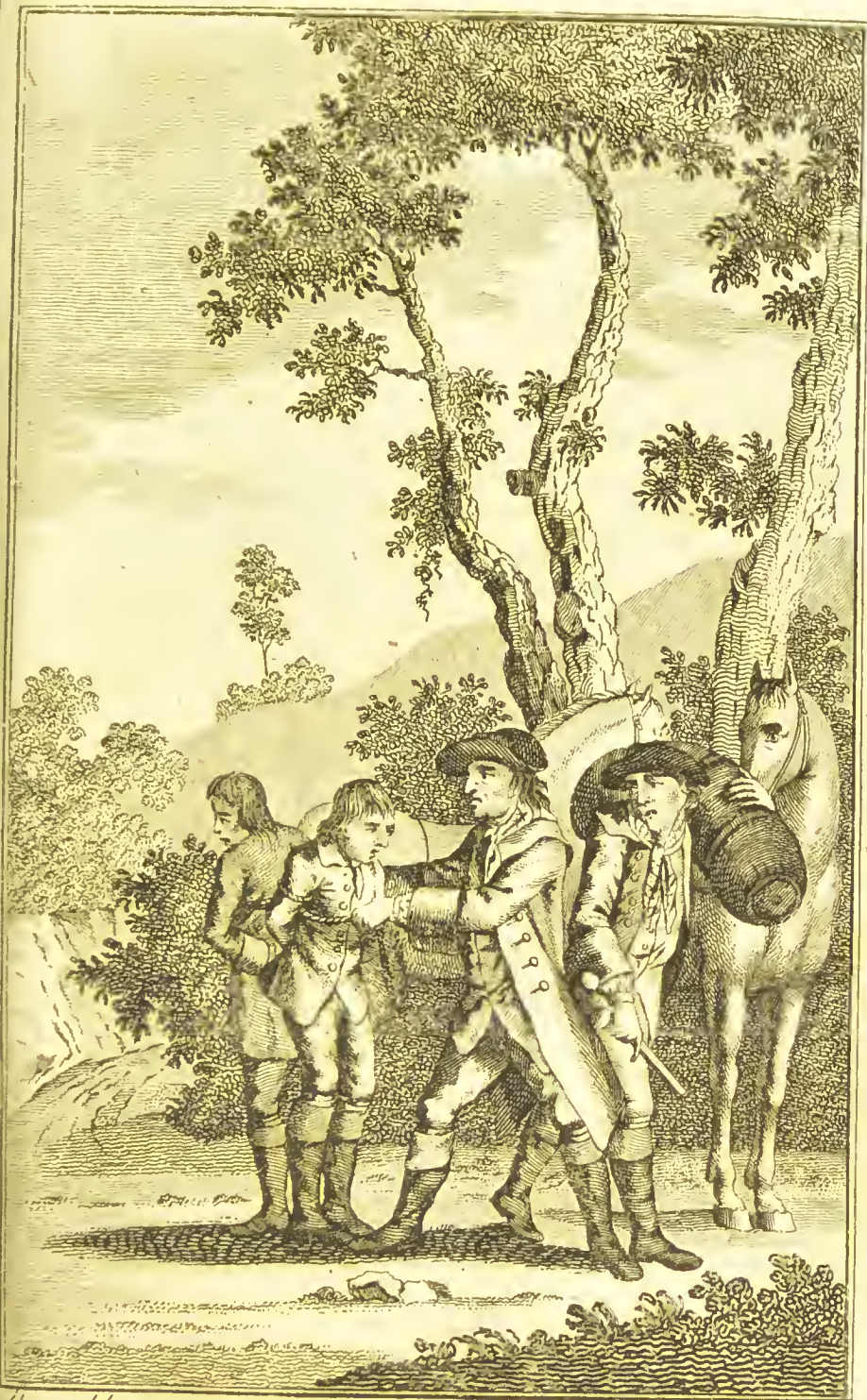
from whom they took a gold watch, and other valuable articles:

Soon after this he robbed the Portsmouth coach, in company with Wilson, when one of the company fired at them. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Aylesbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to revenge the supposed insult by committing a similar crime.

They mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable keeper, who advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined that they would rob the Bristol mail; and they set out on an expedition for that purpose.

It appeared on the trial that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough, by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley-Broom, where a person rode up to them and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulling their wiggs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, where they ordered them to quit their horses, and then Hawkins, Simpson and Wilson tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge.

They



Wangro delin.

Goodnight sculp.

THE MAIL ROBBED near COLNBROOK
By J. Hawkins and Geo. Simpson.

They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surry, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey-street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure.

The landlord being acquainted with the persons, and knowing the profession of his guests, shewed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green-Arbour-Court in the Old-Bailey.

A few days after this transaction they were taken into custody, in the following manner. Information having been given at the Post Office, that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper at London-Wall, some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happening to be there at the time, suspected their business, on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some bye allies, and got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people.

He had not been long in the house before a quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood, for the men who robbed the mail. This shocked him so that he instantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back door, went into Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him, induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own;

and he concluded that he was far more unhappy through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom it had pleased God to deprive of the use of their intellects.

Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle by sea, and he was confirmed in this resolution, on reflecting that a person who wished his safety had informed him that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewise advised him to go to the Post-Office, surrender, and turn evidence; hinting that if he did not, it was probable Simpson would: as he had asked some questions which seemed to intimate such a design.

Wilson neglected this advice; but held his resolution of going to Newcastle; and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's. They turned and followed him: yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but going out of the fore-door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the Post-office.

On his first examination he refused to make any confession: and on the following day, he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place the Post Master General promised that he should be admitted an evidence if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aside, shewed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:

“SIR,

“SIR,

“I am one of those persons who robbed the
“mails, which I am sorry for; and, to make
“amends, I will secure my two companions as
“soon as may be. He whose hand this shall ap-
“pear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the re-
“ward and his pardon.”

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's hand-writing, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodging in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate.

On the trial, Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house on that night. To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse hire.

The judge desiring to look at that receipt, observed that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit.

After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by a singular occurrence, which will be best understood by our giving it in the words of the short-hand writer.

“ My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale or pretty black.

“ Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt; a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequence, I let him take the book out of my hand: when presently shewing it to his friend, See here, (said he) what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!” His friend took it and shewed it to another. Uneasy at this I spoke to them to return me my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute; but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book; which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it and gave it to the next, and so it passed from one to another, 'till the judge perceiving them very busy, called to them.

“ ——— Gentlemen, what are you doing? what book is that? They told him it was the writer's book, and they were observing how the same ink appeared pale in one place, and black in another. You ought not, gentlemen, says he, to take notice of any thing, but what is produced in evidence. And, then, turning to me, demanded what I meant by shewing that to the jury. I answered, that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from

“ i ma-

HAWKINS and SIMPSON—*for Robbery.* 293

“imagining I should have any such occasion for
“taking particular notice of them.—His lord-
“ship then re-assumed his charge to the jury,
“which being ended, they withdrew to consider
“of their verdict.”

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict, saying they could not be convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink.

In answer hereto the court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London; to contradict all whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it was submitted whether Fuller's single testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court, and on their return, gave a verdict of “guilty” against both the prisoners.

After sentence of death they behaved as became persons in their unfortunate circumstances: Simpson in particular appeared to be highly affected with the awfulness of his situation.

At the place of execution Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging that his sins had brought him to that shameful end, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle.

Robbing the mail is a crime of so enormous a magnitude, that we are at a loss to find language in which to express our abhorrence of it. It is inconceivable what distress may be occasioned by the perpetration of a fact of this nature. Trade-
mer

men who expect remittances by the post may be ruined by their not arriving in time; and the bankruptcy of one may be the destruction of many. Hence, it is possible that hundreds of honest manufacturers and other dependents on shopkeepers, may suffer through the wickedness of one man who is base enough to rob the mail.

Those who think on this circumstance must shudder with horror, if they have any concern for the welfare of their fellow-creatures. It is no wonder that our laws have provided for the punishment of this crime in the most exemplary manner; and it is observable that it is less frequent than that of any other species of robbery. This seems to shew how dangerous it is held even by thieves; for we cannot suppose that they are restrained from the commission of this crime more than of others, by any superior motives of honesty, or regard for the public welfare.

With respect to the case of the criminals in question, it appears that they had taken every precaution to prevent a discovery; but the all-seeing eye of Heaven brought their most secret transactions to light. Wilson's consciousness of guilt, when he saw the persons from the Post-Office at London-Wall; his reflections when in Bedlam, and his being afterwards taken by the accident of going out at the wrong door of the coffee-house, are all circumstances well worthy the notice of the reader.

From Simpson's sending a letter, offering to secure his companions, we may learn the fallacy of that proverb, which says, that there is "honour even among thieves." When once men have broken the band of common honesty, when they have declared war upon the public, there can be no security that they will act with integrity to-
wards

wards each other. On the contrary, it is to be presumed that they will be friends no longer than an outward shew of friendship may promote their present interest.

Upon the whole, the fate of these malefactors should teach us that there can be no happiness independent of virtue; and that combinations in wickedness must be soon dissolved, from their own nature. Wherefore let us be careful in the choice of our company; let us remember that money obtained by dishonest means will afford us no satisfaction: and may we consider the force of that proverb of Solomon, “Riches profit not in the day of wrath! but righteousness delivereth from death.”

The above-mentioned malefactors were hung in chains on Hounslow-Heath, after being executed at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722.

Particulars respecting NATHANIEL JACKSON, who was hanged for Robbery.

THIS malefactor was a native of Doncaster in Yorkshire, and his father dying while he was very young, left a sum of money for his use in the hands of a relation who apprenticed him to a silk-weaver in Norwich. He had frequent disputes with his master, with whom he lived three years and then ran away from him.

At length his guardian found out his retreat, and sent to inform him that, as he was averse to business, his friends wished that a place might be purchased for him with the money left by his father. But Jackson being of an unsettled disposition, enlisted in the army, and was sent to Ireland,

land, where he engaged in all those scenes of low debauchery by which the common soldiers are too much distinguished.

At length, being disgusted with his low condition, he solicited his discharge, which having obtained, he procured some money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but soon quarrelling with one of his comrades, a duel ensued, in which Jackson wounded the other in a most horrid manner, for which he was turned out of the regiment.

He now returned to England, and lived some time with his guardian in Yorkshire; but being averse to a life of sobriety, he soon went to London, where he spent, in the most extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him, and was reduced to the utmost distress, when he casually met John Murphy, and Neal O'Brian, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drank together, O'Brian produced a considerable sum of money, saying, "You see how I live: "I never want money, and if you have but courage, and dare walk with me towards Hampstead to night, I'll shew you how easy it is to get it."

As Jackson and Murphy were both of dissolute manners, and very poor, they were easily persuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprize. Between Tottenham-Court-Road and Hampstead they stopped a poor man named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waistcoat, two shirts, thirteen pence in money, and some other trifling articles; and then bound him to a tree. No sooner were they gone, than he struggled hard, and got loose, and meeting a person whom he knew, they pursued them to a night-house in the Haymarket, where Murphy and
Jackson

Jackson were taken into custody, but O'Brian made his escape.

On their trial, as soon as Dennis had given his testimony, they owned the fact they had committed, in consequence of which they received sentence of death; but Murphy obtained a reprieve. Jackson's brother exerted all his influence to save his life; but his endeavours proving ineffectual, he sent him a letter to inform him of it, which was written in such an affecting manner as to overwhelm his mind with the most pugnent affliction.

While under sentence of death, Jackson behaved in the most penitent manner; confessed the sins of his past life with the deepest signs of contrition; was earnest in his devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of July, 1722.

It is observable, in the case of this malefactor, that he suffered for the first robbery he ever committed, of which we have any account; and that his vices and extravagance had reduced him to such a state of poverty, as to induce him to listen to the first temptation that was ever thrown in his way.

Hence let the young and thoughtless guard against the slightest appearance of evil. Let them shun bad company as they would a pestilence: let them learn the advantages of frugality, and consider that a man who is temperate and prudent, will have no temptation to be dishonest. It may be useful to keep in mind this text of scripture, "The wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it."

Case of THOMAS BUTLOGE, who was hanged for stealing money and other Effects, in the house of his Master.

THIS offender was a native of Ireland, where he received a good education, and was then apprenticed to a vintner in Dublin; but the house in which he lived not being of the most reputable kind, he became witness to such scenes as had a natural tendency to debauch his morals.

Butloge's master having got considerably in debt, came to England, and resided some time at Chester, whither the apprentice was frequently sent with such remittances as the wife could spare. At length Butloge quitted his service, and came to England with a view to settle there; but being unsuccessful in his endeavours to procure an establishment, he returned to Dublin, where he engaged in the service of a shopkeeper, whose daughter he soon afterwards married.

He had now a fair prospect of success before him, as his wife's father proposed to have resigned business in his favour; but being of an unsettled disposition, and having conceived an idea of making his fortune in England, he could not bring his mind to think of the regular pursuit of trade.

Unhappily for him, while he was amusing himself with the imagination of his future greatness, he received a letter from a relation in England, inviting him thither, and promising his interest to obtain him a place on which he might live in a genteel manner. Butloge readily accepted this invitation, and immediately embarking for England, soon arrived in London.

He

He now took lodgings at the court end of the town, and living in a gay stile, soon spent all the money he had brought with him from Ireland; and his relation not being able to obtain the place for him which he had expected, he was reduced to the necessity of going to service, on which he entered into that of Mr. Langlie, a French gentleman.

He had not been long in his new place, when Mr. Langlie, going to church on a Sunday, recollected that he had forgot to lock his bureau; in which he had deposited a sum of money; whereupon he went home, and found Butloge in the room where the money was left. When Mr. Langlie had counted his cash, the other asked him if he missed any thing, and the master answered one guinea; which Butloge said he had found by the side of the bureau; whereupon his master gave him two shillings, in approbation of this instance of his honesty.

Mr. Langlie went to Chelsea in the afternoon; and during his absence Butloge broke open his bureau, robbed it of all the money, and several other valuable effects, and then took a horse, which he had hired for a gentleman to go to Chester, and set off on his way to Ireland.

When Mr. Langlie returned in the evening, he discovered the loss he had sustained, on which he applied to lord Gage, who wrote to the postmaster of Chester to stop the delinquent; in consequence of which he was apprehended with the stolen goods in his possession, and sent to London to take his trial, which happened soon afterwards at the Old Bailey, when he was capitally convicted.

After he had received sentence of death he acknowledged that he was not tempted by want

to the commission of the crime which had brought him into such deplorable circumstances; but that the vanity of appearing as a gentleman had been one principal instigation: and he was encouraged by the consideration that Mr. Langlie would soon return to France, so that there would be no person to prosecute him. He submitted to his unhappy lot with resignation, declaring that the thoughts of death did not so much terrify him, as the reflection on the disgrace that he had brought on his family.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722.

From the case of Butloge we may see the propriety of parents making choice of such professions for their children as will not necessarily expose them to temptations. The scenes he was witness to during his apprenticeship had, as we have observed a natural tendency to debauch his manners; and though they did not absolutely make a thief of him, yet they prepared his mind for the reception of the first ill impression that should be made on it. The poet says,

Children, like tender osiers, take the bow;
And as they first are fashioned always, grow.

And to this observation the moralist may add, that "Nothing is so likely to contaminate the mind, as the seeing others proceed in the ways of pleasurable iniquity without controul."

The almost immediate fate of this man, consequent on the robbing his master, should teach servants in general the propriety of behaving with fidelity to their protectors: and his stealing Mr. Langlie's money so soon after receiving a gratuity from him for his supposed integrity, exhibits an instance

MATTHIAS BRINSDEN—*for Murder.* 301

instance of ingratitude which we hope will never be imitated.

Of late years we have seldom known an instance of a servant's robbing his master, and being convicted, but he has suffered the utmost rigour of the law: and indeed it is proper it should be so; for an offence of this nature is one of the most enormous crimes of which any person can be guilty.

Butloge seems to have been, in some degree, a sacrifice to his own pride and ambition. Let those who are tempted to act as he did, remember that "A man's pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."

Particulars respecting MATTHIAS BRINSDEN, who was hanged for Murder,

IN the month of September, 1722, Matthias Brinsden was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Hannah, his wife, on the 16th of July preceding.

This offender served his time to a cloth-drawer in Blackfriars, named Beech, who dying, was succeeded by Mr. Byfield, who left the business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long she lived with him is uncertain.

After the death of this wife he married a second, by whom he had ten children, some of the older of whom were brought up to work at his business. At length he was seized with a fever so violent that it distracted him; so that he was tied down to his bed. This misfortune occasioned such a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried news-papers, and did any other business he could to support his family.

Going

Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed, suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper; to which he answered, "bread and cheese—Can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied; "No, I want a bit of meat."—"But (said he) I have no money to buy you any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to-day:" and some farther words arising between them, he stabbed her under the left breast with a knife.

The deed was no sooner perpetrated than one of the daughters snatched the infant from the mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." The prisoner now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon being sent for found that the wound was mortal; and the poor woman died soon after he came, and within half an hour of the time the wound was given.

In the interim the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber at Shadwell, whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance; and in consequence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder.

When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in some degree inoxicated, that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, she threw herself against the knife; and received an accidental wound.

However, the evidence againſt him was ſo clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received ſentence of death. After conviction he became ſerious and reſigned, and being viſited by one of his daughters who had given evidence againſt him, he took her in his arms, and ſaid, “God forgive me, I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than ſteal: never be in a paſſion; but curb your anger, and honor your miſtreſs; ſhe will be as a father and mother to you. Farewel, my dear child: pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can.”

On his way to the place of execution the daughter above-mentioned was permitted to go into the cart to take her laſt farewel of him, a ſcene that was greatly affecting to the ſpectators.

As ſome reports very unfavourable to this malefactor had been propagated during his confinement, he deſired the ordinary of Newgate to read the following ſpeech juſt before he was launched into eternity.

“**I** was born of kind parents, who gave me learning; I went apprentice to a ſine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increaſe a natural waſpiſhneſs in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my laſt wife, and after much difficulty won her, ſhe having five ſuitors courting her at the ſame time. We had ten children (half of them dead) and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought.

“Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice againſt her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I deſigned only to make her obey me thoroughly, which the ſcripture ſays, all wives ſhould do. This I thought I had done,
when

when I cut her scull on Monday, but she was the same again by Tuesday.

“ Good people, I request you to observe, that the world has spitefully given out, that I carnally and incestuously lay with my eldest daughter. I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the presence of God, I never knew whether she was man or woman since she was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kissed her, sometimes given her a cake or a pye, when she did any particular service, beyond what came to her share; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less had a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated like me, the women will make surmises be certainties.

“ Good christians, pray for me! I deserve death: I am willing to die; for, though my sins are great, God’s mercies are greater.”

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

If any credit is to be given to Brinsden’s last solemn declaration, his wife as well as himself, seems to have been of an unhappy disposition: since they could not refrain from quarrelling, though they had a sincere regard for each other. We fear this to be too commonly the case in the married state; but it is a lamentable consideration that those who have engaged to be the mutual comfort and support of each other through life, should render the rugged path still more difficult, by their mutual contentions and animosities.

It is the part of a husband to protect his wife from every injury and insult; to be at once a father and a guardian to her; and so far from ill-treating her himself, he ought to be particularly watchful that she be not ill-used by others: the

tender sex has a natural claim to the protection of the more robust. Indeed it appears, as if one reason why providence bestowed superior strength on the man, was for the defence and protection of the woman.

On the other hand women should be grateful for this protection; and in the emphatical words of St. Paul, wives should learn to be “obedient to their husbands in all things.”

It is a very unfortunate circumstance when persons of opposite sentiments happen to be united in wedlock: but, even in this case, people of sense and humanity will learn to bear with the failings of each other, considering that much allowance is to be made for their own faults. They will endeavour to make the lot which has befallen them more supportable than it otherwise would be; and, in time, by the constant wish to please, they may even conciliate the affections of each other, and mutual happiness may arise where it is least expected.

In general, however, a coincidence of temper, and a purity of manners, added to a sacred regard to religious duties, is the greatest security for happiness in the married state. Beautiful are the lines of the poet:

Two kindest souls alone should meet,
 'Tis friendship makes their bondage sweet,
 And teeds their mutual loves:
 Bright Venus, on her rolling throne,
 Is drawn by gentle birds alone,
 And cupids yoke the doves.

Though mutual affection greatly conduces to conjugal happiness, yet sobriety and honesty are also necessary ingredients for sweetening the matrimonial cup.

Account of the Trial of MARGARET FISHER, for privately stealing; with the singular evidence given against her.

IN September 1722, Margaret Fisher was indicted at the Old Bailey for privately stealing thirteen guineas from the person of Daniel Macdonald.

As our readers have a claim upon us for matters of entertainment as well as instruction, we are ready to gratify them, as we shall always be, when it can be done without grossly violating the laws of decency, and we insert the following for the sake of the whimsical singularity of the prosecutor's evidence, which was delivered in the following terms.

“ And leek yer loardship, I had just taken my wages, thirteen guineas in goud, and was gawn along King-strate, in Wastmanster, when I met wi' this fow quean at the bare, and she speird where I was gawn; I taud her hame. She said, gen I wad ga wi' her tull Joannh Davis's hoose, she wad gi' me a drame, fir, for, in troth, she tuck me for a poor gawkey, boss-headed chiel, and leek yer loardship. Sa she tuck haud o' my haind, and led me a gat I kenna' reet weel. And when we came tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she caud for muckle beer and braindy, and gard me as bung as a swobe, and leek yer hoanour. I staid there wi' her a pratty while; and thane, fir, I pit my haind intull my bricks, to feel for money to pay the rackoning; but the deel a bawbie could I find for it was aw tint. And when I speird about it, they glowred, and taud me, gen I wanna' tack my self awaw, they wad gar me ga, wi' a deel to me;

me; and sa fir, they dang me fu' fair, and turned me oot at the back door, intull the strate, and I rambled aboot, and cou' na' find the hoose agen: and the watchmen mat wi' me, and carried me intull the roond-hoose. And thare I taud 'em hoo I had been roabed. The neist moorning I gade and food oot Joanny Davis's hoose, but she was rin away and the prafoner too. But at neet, about saven a cloke, I mat wi' this ampuident betch at the bare, and tuck her up, I keh weel enuh that she must ha' my goud, for na saul alse was wi' me but Joanny Davis, wha brote what we cawd for.—Let her denec it an she can——somebody (but I kenna' whaw it was) offered me sax guineas in my haind to make the maiter up, but I wanna' tack it."

In her defence the prisoner alledged, that meeting with a coachman and the prosecutor, the former asked her to drink; on which they went to the house of Mrs. Davis; but that she sat on the opposite side of the room that the prosecutor did, and had not robbed him; and that nothing was found upon her when she was searched.

But the jury not believing her allegations, and as she had no persons to appear in behalf of her character, she was found guilty, and received sentence of death. However, she pleaded that she was with child; and a jury of matrons finding this to be the fact, she had the good fortune to be respited, and afterwards pardoned.

The remark to be made on this case arises from the folly of those men who will suffer themselves to be robbed by the women of the town. Nothing is more common than for countrymen to be picked up by these abandoned creatures, who entice them to drink, and then strip them of their

whole property. One would imagine that the repeated accounts of these transactions given in the newspapers might be sufficient to guard all men against the artifices of these wretches : but experience proves the contrary. It may therefore be proper to caution our readers from a higher authority than that of the newspapers.

“ My son attend unto my wisdom ; and bow
 “ thine ear to my understanding :—that thou
 “ mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may
 “ keep knowledge :—for the lips of a strange wo-
 “ man drop as a honey-comb, and her mouth is
 “ smoother than oil :—but her end is bitter as
 “ wormwood, sharp as a two edged sword : her
 “ feet go down to death ; her steps take hold on
 “ hell.”—Proverbs, chap. v. first five verses.

Account of ROBERT WILKINSON, JAMES LINCOLN, and THOMAS MILKSOP, who were hanged for Murder.

THESE offenders were tried for a murder which arose from the following circumstance.

Having agreed to commit a robbery together, they stopped a gentleman's coach on the road to Kensington, and having robbed him of a sum of money, ran off ; and soon afterwards meeting a Chelsea pensioner who had a gun in his hand, they ordered him to deliver it ; but the man refusing to do it, Wilkinson stabbed him repeatedly through the back with a hanger ; and when they saw the man was dead, they hastily decamped,

ed, committed some robberies on coaches in the road, and then went to London.

On the following day they were apprehended and committed to prison; and being soon afterwards brought to their trial at the Old Bailey, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

It will be now proper to give such an account of these offenders as we have been able to collect.

—ROBERT WILKINSON was the son of poor parents in St. Giles's, and having missed the advantages of education, became an associate of coachmen, carmen, and others the lowest of the people. At length he grew to be a dextrous boxer, and frequented Hockley-in-the-Hole, and other blackguard places in the neighbourhood of London,

After this he commenced footpad, and committed a great variety of robberies, attended with many circumstances of cruelty. Frequently did he knock men down with bludgeons; and when he had robbed women, it was a common practice with him to strip them naked, bind them to trees, and leave them in that calamitous situation.

He continued this way of life alone for some years, and then connected himself with the other villains whose names are mentioned in this narrative.

JAMES LINCOLN was likewise born of mean parents, nor was any more care taken of his education than of Wilkinson's. For some time he served the hackney-coachmen and carmen, and afterwards committed an immense number of footpad robberies in the roads near London; and so frequent were his depredations of this kind, that honest men were afraid to pass alone about their lawful business.

He

He had been so successful in his adventures, and had so often escaped detection, that he grew so hardened as to watch four nights at the end of Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, to rob the duke of Newcastle of his George, though he knew that his grace had always a number of servants in his train.

Being disappointed of this booty, he went on foot to Hyde park, where he robbed a gentleman in his carriage, and eluded all pursuit. The money he acquired by his robberies was spent in the most extravagant manner; and at length he became acquainted with the other subjects of this narrative, and was concerned in the crime which ended in their mutual ruin.

THOMAS MILKSOP was a native of London, and was bound apprentice to a vintner, in which station he became familiar to some scenes of irregularity that had a natural tendency to corrupt his morals. When the term of his apprenticeship was expired, he attached himself to some abandoned women, and got connected with an infamous gang of housebreakers and other thieves, who committed numberless depredations on the public.

Milksop having, by one of his night-robberies, acquired a considerable sum of money, bought a horse, and rode out in the character of a highwayman; but not meeting with any success in this way, he returned to his former practices, and then engaged with a gang, of which Wilkinson and Lincoln were two, and was concerned in a great number of other facts, besides that which brought him to a fatal end.

The behaviour of these malefactors under sentence of death was rather hardened. They had been guilty of a great number of offences, for
which

which they did not appear to have a proper concern. Such was the conduct of Wilkinson, that the Ordinary of Newgate refused to administer the sacrament to him, on which he said if he was not allowed to go to heaven with others, he would find the way alone. Lincoln professed himself a Roman Catholic; and Milkfop, among his other offences, particularly lamented the committing a rape on a poor woman whom he robbed near Caen-wood*.

These offenders suffered death at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

There is nothing so remarkable in the case of these criminals as the ill consequences resulting from a want of education, and the being witness to scenes of debauchery. The former was the case of Wilkinson and Lincoln, and the latter of Milkfop. From their fate then, let parents, in whatever sphere of life, be taught to give their children as good an education as is in their power; and be particularly careful not to place them in situations liable to corrupt their morals. It is one of the most excellent parts of the most excellent prayer in the world, "Lead us not into temptation."

Account of RICHARD OAKY, JOHN LEVEE, and MATTHEW FLOOD, who were hanged for a Robbery.

RICHARD OAKY was a native of London, and bound apprentice to a taylor, with

* Caen-Wood is the seat of Lord Mansfield, and situated between Hampstead and Highgate.
whom

whom he served about two years, and then running away, got into company with a set of black-guard boys who procured a miserable subsistence by picking of pockets; and then they proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women.

In order to do this effectually, one of them used to trip up the woman's heels, while the other cut off the pocket, and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

These kind of robberies were very common formerly, but of late years they have been very seldom practised.

Many of Oaky's associates belonging to Jonathan Wild's gang, that infernal villain had caused several of them to be hanged, when he could make no farther advantage of them. Having thus lost his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following singular method of robbery.

They used to walk through the streets, the woman going a little before Oaky, and when she observed a lady walking near where a coach was turning, she used to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, madam, you will be run over;" and in the interim Oaky was certain to cut off her pocket:—but this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman soon after died, in consequence of some bruises she received from a fellow she had ill treated: and on her death Oaky followed the practice of snatching of pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dextrous in his profession.

Not long after this he became acquainted with several housebreakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more profitable than steal.

stealing of pockets. In the first attempt they were successful; but the second, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a shop in the Borough, from whence they stole a quantity of callimancoes; for which offence Oaky was apprehended; on which he impeached his accomplices, one of whom was hanged, and the other transported, on his evidence.

Deterred from the thoughts of house-breaking by this adventure, Oaky returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the sailer, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him; and then Oaky used to decamp with their cloaths. However these associates in iniquity soon quarrelled and parted, and Oaky, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang.

JOHN LEVEE was the son of a French gentleman who resided some time in England during the reign of king Charles the second, and taught the French language to three natural sons of that prince; but he retired to Holland, and there died, soon after the advancement of king William to the throne. Young Levee was educated at the expence of the French protestants in London, and was then bound apprentice to a captain in the royal navy.

He served as a sailor for some years, and was present at the defeat of the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean, in queen Anne's reign; and afterwards sailed under admiral Norris, in his fruitless expedition against the Russian fleet in the Baltick.

When the admiral came back to England, Levee's friends recommended him to the service of a merchant in Thames-street, in the capacity of under-clerk, for which he was not ill-qualified; but being of too unsettled a temper to apply himself to business, he declined this opportunity of providing for himself, and soon spent the little money he was possessed of.

Going one evening to a public-house in Holborn, he met with some thieves of Jonathan Wild's gang, who soon persuaded him to join them in their lawless depredations, which at length brought him to destruction.

MATTHEW FLOOD was the son of parents of good character, and born at Shadwell. He was apprenticed to a lighterman, with whom he lived a considerable time: but being averse to a life of labour, his master and he parted by joint consent; and soon afterwards he became acquainted with Oaky and Levee, and their dissolute companions.

The robberies committed by this gang are too numerous for recital: they were for some time the terror of travellers near London. We shall mention only one robbery exclusive of that for which they suffered.

They stopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men said they would deliver their money, but begged they would not search, as the lady was with child. Among the gang was Blue-skin, * who holding a hat, received the money the passengers put into it, which appeared to be a considerable sum, but on examination it was
found

* An account of this malefactor will appear in the following pages.

found to be chiefly halfpence. The gang suspected that Blueskin had defrauded them, as it was not the first time he had cheated his fellow-thieves: but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to search the coach, when they afterwards learnt that there were three hundred pounds in it.

Some time after this Oaky, Levee, Flood and Blueskin, stopped colonel Cope and Mr. Young in a carriage, on their return from Hampstead; and robbed them of their watches, rings and money. Information of this robbery was sent to Jonathan Wild, who caused the parties to be apprehended; and Blueskin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution.

After conviction their behaviour was exceedingly proper for persons in their calamitous situation. They did not flatter themselves with vain hopes of a pardon; but exerted themselves by every act of devotion, to make a proper preparation for their approaching end.

At the last scene of their lives they addressed the spectators, advising them to take warning by their fatal end.

Oaky said that what gave him more concern than all his other offences was the burning a will which he found with some money and rings in a pocket which he had cut off from a lady's side; a circumstance which had proved highly detrimental to the owner.

These offenders suffered at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1723.

In this, as in almost every other instance before us, we see that the ways of vice lead to destruction: to present disgrace, certain death, and perpetual infamy. We learn also the falshood of

that common maxim that there is "honour among thieves." Oaky became an evidence against his associates, in consequence of which one of them was hanged, and the other transported. After this Bluekin became an evidence against Oaky and his two companions, all of whom suffered the utmost rigour of the law. Jonathan Wild made tools of these poor wretches for a while; and when they had run their career, he gave them up to public justice.

What a picture does this furnish of the calamitous life of a thief, who has not one friend in whom he can confide, nor can he think himself in security even for a single moment! The terrors of his conscience must for ever haunt him: sleep must fly from his eyes, and peace from his breast. The gallows must be continually in his view, and every previous hour of his life must be imbittered by reflecting on the disgraceful one that is to end it.

Shun then the paths of vice, "keep the commandments of God; and write them upon the table of thine heart. Whoso sinneth against God wrongeth his own soul; and all they that hate him love death."

Case of CHRISTOPHER LAYER, Esq. who was hanged for High-Treason.

MR. LAYER was born of very respectable parents, and received a liberal education, which being compleated at the University, he was entered a student of the honourable society of the Inner Temple. After the customary time he was called to the bar, entered on the profession
of

of a counsellor at law, and had so much practice that he seemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune.

Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, had been disabled from holding his preferments in the church, by an act of parliament passed in the year 1722, and was banished from England for life for his treasonable practices: and about this period several other persons were concerned in similar designs, among whom counsellor Layer was one of the most distinguished.

This infatuated man made a journey to Rome, where he held several conferences with the Pretender, to whom he promised that he would effect so secret a revolution in England, that no person in authority should be apprised of the scheme till it had actually taken place.

Impressed with the idea that it was possible to carry his scheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was to hire an assassin to murder the king on his return from Kensington; and this being done, the other parties engaged in the plot were to seize the guards; and the prince of Wales and his children, and the great officers of state, were to be seized and confined during the confusion that such an event would naturally produce.

Among others concerned in this strange scheme was lord Grey; an antient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a prisoner in the Tower before the necessary legal proceedings against him could take place.

Mr. Layer having settled a correspondence with several Roman Catholics, Nonjurors, and other persons disaffected to the government, he engaged a small number of disbanded soldiers, who were to be the principal actors in the intended tragedy.

The

The counsellor met these soldiers at a public-house at Stratford in Essex, where he gave them the necessary instructions for seizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the day when the plan was to be carried into execution.

Some of the people of the public-house having overheard the treasonable conversation, spoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and some other circumstances of suspicion arising, Mr. Layer was taken into custody by one of the king's messengers, in consequence of a warrant from the secretary of state.

At this time Mr. Layer had two women in keeping, one in Southampton Buildings, and the other in Queen-street, to both of whom he had given intimations of the scheme he had in hand. The lodgings of these women being searched, such a number of treasonable papers were found, that the intentions of the counsellor appeared evident. When he was apprized that his papers were seized, and the women bound to give evidence against him, he dispatched a messenger to the secretary of state, informing him that he would make a discovery of all he knew, if he might be permitted the use of pen, ink, and paper. This requisition was instantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence against his accomplices, if he had made the promised discovery: but it will appear that he had no such intention.

Behind the house of the messenger in which he was confined there was a yard, which communicated with the yard of a public-house adjoining, and Mr. Layer thought, if he could get from his confinement, it would be no difficult matter to escape through the tap-room of the ale-house,
where

where it was not probable that he should be known.

Having digested his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and in the dusk of the evening dropped from his window; but falling on a bottle-rack in the yard, he overset it; and the noise occasioned by the breaking of the bottles was such that the family was alarmed; but Layer escaped during the confusion occasioned by this accident.

Almost distracted by the loss of his prisoner, the messenger went in search of him, and finding that he had taken a boat at the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, he crossed the water after him, pursued him through St. George's-Fields, and caught him at Newington-Butts. Having brought him back to his house, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the secretary of state on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

The king and council now determined that no time should be lost in bringing Layer to a trial: wherefore a writ was issued from the Crown-Office, directed to the sheriff of Essex, commanding him to impanel a grand jury, to enquire into such bills as should be presented against the prisoner: in consequence of which the jury met at Romford, and found a bill against him for high-treason, and this bill was returnable into the Court of King's Bench.

Soon after the bill was found the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, lord chief justice, and the other judges of that court. Mr. Layer had two counsellors to plead for him, and they urged every possible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; contesting every minute circumstance with the council for the crown, during a
trial

trial that lasted sixteen hours; but at length the jury found the prisoner guilty, after having been out of court about an hour.

When the prisoner was brought up to receive sentence, his council made another effort in his behalf, by urging the informality of some of the legal proceedings against him; but their arguments being thought insufficient, the sentence ordained by law was passed on him.

As he had some important affairs to settle, from the nature of his profession, the court did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients being sufferers by his affairs being left in a state of confusion.

After conviction Mr. Laver was committed to the Tower, and at length the sheriffs of London and Middlesex received a warrant to execute the sentence of the law; in consequence of which he was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, dressed in a suit of black full trimmed, and a tye-wig.

At the place of execution he was assisted in his devotions by a nonjuring clergyman; and when these were ended, he spoke to the surrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed King James (so he called the Pretender) his lawful sovereign. He said that King George was an usurper, and damnation would be the fate of those who supported his government. He insisted that the nation would never be in a state of peace till the Pretender was restored; and therefore advised the people to take up arms in his behalf: he professed himself willing to die for the cause; and expressed great hopes that providence would effectually support the right heir to the throne on some future occasion, though himself had failed
of

of being the happy instrument of placing him thereon.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 15th of March, 1723, and his body being quartered, his head was placed over Temple-Bar.

Mr. Layer is said to have been a man of sense, and from his education and profession, we may presume that he was a man of learning; yet his conduct was such as, one would imagine, no person above the level of an idiot could have been guilty of. The scheme he undertook was absurd in the highest degree; and his folly in revealing his sentiments to the women whom he kept, was as egregious as his guilt was glaring.

Those who preach up the nonsense of a divine indefeasible right inherent in kings, may possibly admire the madness by which this man was inspired: but Englishmen ought to be thankful that their sovereigns can govern only in conformity to the laws: laws more perfect than those which human wisdom has yet framed in any other country under Heaven. We cannot conclude this account more properly than in the words of the poet:

Remember, O my friends, the laws, the rights,
The generous plan of power delivered down
From age to age, by your renowned forefathers;
O, let it never perish in your hands!
But piously transmit it to your children!

As our best preservative from the evils of life, we are exhorted to “fear God, and honour the King;” for we are told, that “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

Particulars respecting WILLIAM BURK, who was hanged for Robberies.

THIS offender was born of poor parents, in St. Catharine's near the Tower, and educated in the charity school of that district. The boy's temper was naturally bad, and the ill-judged fondness of his mother made it still worse, for she indulged him in all his demands however unreasonable.

This disposition made him think the discipline of the school severe; and indeed the master was obliged to be more strict with him than with the other boys.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, which having received, he ran away from school, and went to the water side, enquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war.

The mother learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return; but in vain; for the youth was obstinately bent on a seafaring life.

In about a fortnight the ship sailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met with another galleon, which they took without the loss of a man:—but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost her life by a chain shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared each fifteen pounds

pounds prize-money on these captures, but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West-Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of stealing every thing that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate some years before, but having married a planter who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her customers.

The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the island, but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress; but she, who had been herself a thief, soon detected him. Hereupon he fell on his knees, and begged pardon; which was granted, but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed by the danger from which he had escaped, he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and with that view shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape from being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his shipmates.

On the return of the ship from Guinea to England, the weather was so bad, that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced, that they were almost famished, the allowance of each

man for a whole day being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls; and at length they were obliged to fast five days successively.

However, they reached the port in safety; and notwithstanding the miseries they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves they set sail for the West-India Islands: but during the voyage the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship; and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their associates betrayed them, in consequence of which they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West-Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel to the north of Russia, where his sufferings from the extremity of the cold, and other circumstances, were so severe, that, on his return to England, he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney, but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old-Bailey in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer on the highway; and again on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and being found guilty on both indictments, he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor; for he carried a hedge-bill with him to terrify the persons he stopped: and one old man hesitating to comply with

with his demands, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes; received the sacrament with great devotion; and declared, that if he obtained mercy from God it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723, in the 22d year of his age.

The crimes and sufferings of this unhappy wretch seem to have arisen in great measure, from his mother's unreasonable indulgence of him. It is but too common with women of the lower ranks of life to ruin their children by an extravagant tenderness. Bad habits may be often stopped in the bud, by timely correction; but, "he that spareth the rod, spoileth the child." A religious education is the best preventive remedy against a life of vice; and it would well become parents to purchase such books as are best calculated to impress the mind with a proper idea of things sacred *.

* For this purpose we would earnestly recommend a book called "The HOLY BIBLE in VERSE, by JOHN FELLOWS;" which comprises the history of the Holy Bible as contained in the Old and New Testaments. This book consists of four volumes in octavo; but those whom it may not suit to purchase the whole together, may have it in 16 weekly numbers, at six pence each. It is elegantly printed, and has the advantage of being adorned with a number of fine copper-plate cuts representing the principal subjects of the sacred history. By this book being written in verse, the sacred doctrines it contains are the more forcibly impressed on the mind.

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The adventures of this malefactor naturally lead us to say something of the slave-trade; a trade, which is a disgrace to this kingdom, as it militates against all the rights of humanity. Can any man in his senses suppose that the complexion of his fellow-creature can operate in his disfavour with that Almighty Being who has created all the universe, and is equally the father of all persons of all complexions. To suppose that a black man is less the object of the Divine favour than one of a lighter cast, is an affront to that God who is the author of light and of darkness; and in spite of all that can be urged in favour of the slave-trade, we know that it is founded in avarice, carried on in cruelty, and ought to end in the destruction of those who practise it.

Singular Case of ALEXANDER DAY, who was convicted of defrauding several Tradesmen.

IN modern times we have had several instances of villains who have proceeded on a similar plan with Day; but as few of them have cut so great a figure, nor any of them met with a fate exactly similar, we shall be the more particular in our account of this artful villain.

Day was a professed sharper, who pretended to be a man of fortune. He assumed the title of Marmaduke Davenport, Esq. and taking a large house in Queen's-Square, asserted that he possessed a capital estate in the north of England.

He had a footman who seems to have been an accomplice with him. This man he sent to a livery-stable, to enquire the price of a pair of horses, which he himself afterwards agreed to purchase,

purchase, and then desired the stable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather lusty, as he had a suit of livery cloaths of a large size by him.

The man was accordingly recommended, but when the livery was tried on, Day observed that as they did not fit him, he would send into the country for his own coachman; but this objection was obviated by the footman, who saying that the cloaths would fit with a small alteration, the Squire consented to hire the man.

When the stable-keeper saw the coachman, he had recommended, he enquired to what places he had driven his new master; and being informed, to the duke of Montague's, and other persons of rank, he seemed satisfied; though he had begun to form ideas unfavourable to his new customer.

Mr. Day having kept his coach and horses something more than a week, gave orders to be driven to a coffee-house in Red Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and asked if some gentlemen were come, whom he expected to supper. Being answered in the negative, he went out at the back door, without paying for his wine, and said he would return in a few minutes. The coachman waited a long time, but his master not coming back, he drove to the stable-keeper's, who seemed glad to have recovered his property out of such dangerous hands.

It seems that Day made no small use of this coach while it was in his possession. He drove to the shop of a lace merchant named Gravestock, and asked for some Spanish point: but the dealer having none of that kind by him, the 'Squire ordered fifty-five pounds worth of gold lace to be sent to his house in Queen's-Square. When Gravestock's servant carried the lace, Day desired him

him to tell his master to call, as he was in want of lace for some rich liveries, but he must speak with his taylor before he could ascertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Gravestock attended his new customer, who gave him so large an order for lace, that if he had executed it, he must have been a very considerable loser, and the 'Squire's liveries would have been gayer than those of any nobleman in London: however, on the following day, he carried some lace of the sort he had left before; nor did he forget to take his bill with him; but the person who should have paid it was decamped.

The next trick practised by our adventurer was as follows: he went to the house of Mr. Markham, a goldsmith, and ordered a gold equipage worth 50*l*. Markham carried home the equipage, and had the honour to drink tea with the supposed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles, and among the rest a chain of gold for his squirrel.

Mr. Markham observing that the squirrel wore a silver chain, which he had sold to a lady not long before, began to suspect his new customer; and waiting on the lady, enquired if she knew Marmaduke Davenport, Esq.—She answered in the negative; on which Markham mentioned the circumstance that had arisen, and described the person of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and said that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a considerable amount. In consequence of this information, Markham arrested the sharper, and recovered his property.

On another occasion Day went in his carriage to the shop of a linen-draper named Schrimshaw, agreed for linen to the amount of 48*l*. and ordered

dered a large quantity to be sent to his house on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The first parcel was delivered; but the purchaser was decamped when the linen-draper went with the second.

After this he went to the shop of a tea-dealer named Kendrick, and ordered tea to the amount of 26l. The tea was sent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before; and told him to call the next morning, when he should be paid for it by the steward. The honest tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the 'squire nor the steward were to be found.

His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr. Hinchcliffe, a silk mercer. Day going to his shop in his absence, left word for him to call at his house to receive a large order. The mercer went, and saw a carriage at the door, and being told that the 'squire had company, he waited a short time, during which the servants took care to inform him that Mr. Davenport, was the son of a baronet of Yorkshire, and possessed a large fortune in that county.

When he saw the supposed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted some valuable silks, and wished that a quantity might be sent, for him to select such as he approved. Mr. Hinchcliffe said that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his shop.

Hereupon Day took the mercer in his coach, and on their way he talked of his father Sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank; and said he was on the point of marriage with the daughter of counsellor Ward, and as he should be under

a necessity of furnishing a house in London, he should want mercery goods to a large amount.

When they came to the mercer's shop, Day selected as many damasks, &c. for bed furniture and hangings, as were worth a thousand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now some suspicion; for he told him that the ladies were best judges of such articles, and asked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance, whom he could consult. He readily answered that he had, and mentioned a lady Davenport as his relation, saying, "send the silks to my house, and I will take her opinion of them."

Mr. Hinchcliffe said he would send them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade worth about thirty pounds: but desirous to know more of his customer before he trusted him with the whole property, he went to counsellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married to a gentleman of the name of Davenport. Hereupon the mercer went to the house of the supposed esquire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained.

It was likewise discovered that our adventurer having casually met, at a coffee-house, the Mr. Davenport who had married the daughter of counsellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him cousin, on the pretence that they must be related, because, as he alledged, their coats of arms were the same.

After a course of fraud Day was taken into custody in the month of May, 1723, on suspicion of his having robbed the mail; but it proved that he was not the man: however, there were six indictments brought against him for the defrauds.

In his defence he pleaded that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchased
on

on credit; and he asserted that he possessed an estate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200*l.* but no credit could be given to his allegations; nor, even if he had possessed such an estate, would it have appeared that he acted on an honest principle.

After a fair trial he was convicted, and sentenced to suffer two years imprisonment in Newgate, to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of two hundred pounds, and to give security for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his imprisonment should he expire.

This fellow was one of those abandoned miscreants whom modern times have distinguished by the name of Swindlers*; and of all men breathing they seem to be the most destitute of principle; they literally “go about seeking whom they may devour.” It is astonishing that tradesmen should be so frequently duped by the artifices of these villains; since scarce a week passes in which the newspapers do not give an account of some of the tricks by which they impose on the unwary.

As it is one professed design of this publication to guard innocent people against the schemes of the artful and designing, we would earnestly recommend it to the people in trade, never to give credit to strangers from the speciousness of their appearance, or the plausibility of their behaviour.

The villain who can defraud a coachmaker out of a carriage, or even raise money to hire one of

* *Swindler* is a German word, the meaning of which exactly corresponds with the idea we affix to the character;—that of a man who strives to take in all the world by artifice.

an elegant appearance, has nothing to do but take genteel lodgings, and put an accomplice or two into livery, and his scheme usually succeeds. The splendid appearance of the supposed master, and the artful puffs of the servants, generally serve to lull suspicion asleep.

When enquiry is made into the character of a person who is supposed to be a man of honour and fortune, the enquirer should consider whether the person who gives him this character is deserving of that of an honest man: for these artful rogues, when they find any person is suspicious of them, have a method of referring to as great rogues as themselves for a character. The tradesman, then, who would not be imposed on, should take characters only from respectable people, who will never deceive him, unless they have been deceived themselves.

The being exposed in the pillory is very inadequate to the punishment, much less to the cure, of this crime. The wretches themselves are dead to all sense of shame; few persons see their faces so perfectly as to recollect them; and when the term of their imprisonment is expired, they put on a gay suit of cloaths, and begin to make fresh depredations on the public.

Since the passing the act of parliament for making criminals labour on board the ballast-lighters, these defrauders have been sent to Woolwich for certain times, proportioned (as the court before whom they are tried may think) to the enormity of their crimes: but being too idle and too wicked to earn their bread in an honest manner, it must be expected that they will renew their old trade, as soon as they obtain their liberty. What seems to be wanting to prevent this crime, so destructive to the honest tradesman, is a law to punish



Valois, sculp.

Sally Salisbury wounding the Hon^{ble} M^r F—

nish these swindlers by labour, on board the ballast-lighters or otherwise, FOR LIFE. This must prove effectual. The idle rascal, who seeks to live in splendor by preying on the public, would give over trade, if he was certain that perpetual imprisonment, hard fare, and unremitted labour, would be the consequence of continuing it.

It is even probable that such kind of punishment would tend greatly to the prevention of *every* species of felony; and the compilers of this work humbly submit to the wisdom of the legislature the propriety of making the experiment. If the law should be found inadequate to the proposed end, it would be easy to repeal it: but it seems very reasonable to think that perpetual imprisonment would terrify more than death. The man who does not dread the gallows, would dread to be a slave for life.

In the mean time, however, let it be remembered, that a life of vice is a life of perpetual anxiety; and that the readiest way to be happy is to be virtuous.

Narrative of the Trial of SARAH PRIDDON, otherwise called SALLY SALISBURY, who was convicted of an Assault.

ON the 24th of April, 1723, Sarah Priddon was indicted at the Old Bailey, for making a violent assault on the honourable J—F—, Esq. and stabbing him with a knife, in his left breast, and giving him a wound of which he long languished, with an intent to kill and murder him.

Mrs.

Mrs. Priddon, or rather Salisbury (for that was the name by which she was best known), was a woman of the town, who was well acquainted with the gentleman whom she wounded. It appeared on the trial that Mr. F— having gone to the Three Tuns Tavern in Chandos-street, Covent-garden, about midnight, Sally followed him thither soon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F—, went to bed; but at two in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of Fontiniac for Mrs. Salisbury. This he did, and carried it to her, with a French roll, and a knife. The prisoner was now in company and conversation with Mr. F—, and the drawer heard them disputing about an Opera ticket which he had presented to her sister; and while they were talking she stabbed him; on which he put his hand to his breast, and said, “Madam, you “have wounded me.”

No sooner had she committed the fact than she appeared sincerely to regret what she had done: she sent for a surgeon, who finding it necessary to extend the wound, that the blood might flow outwardly, she seemed terrified, and calling out, “O Lord! what are you doing?” fainted away.

On her recovery she asked Mr. F— how he did; to which he answered, “Very bad, and “worse than you imagine.” She endeavoured to console him in the best manner she could, and after some time, the parties went away in separate chairs; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven her, and saluted her, as a token of that forgiveness.

The counsel for the prisoner endeavoured to prove that she had no intention of wounding him with malice *prepenſe*; and that what she did arose from

from a sudden start of passion, the consequence of his having given an Opera ticket to her sister, with a view to ingratiate her affections, and debauch her.

The counsel for the crown ridiculed this idea, and insinuated, that a woman of Mrs. Salisbury's character could not be supposed to have any very tender regard to her sister's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F— had readily forgiven her at the time; but insisted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour.

They said, that if the gentleman had died of the wound, she would have been deemed guilty of murder, as she had not received the least provocation to commit the crime; and that the event made no difference with respect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury having considered the circumstances of the case, found her guilty of assaulting and wounding Mr. F—; but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to kill and murder him. In consequence hereof she was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be imprisoned for a year, and then to find security for her good behaviour for two years.

She was tried in May, 1723, but when she had suffered about nine months imprisonment. she died in Newgate, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew, Holborn.

The case of the unhappy woman who has been the subject of this narrative will afford matter for serious reflection. She had been acquainted with the gentleman whom she stabbed, and there is nothing ungenerous in supposing that their acquaintance was of the criminal kind:

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It was insinuated by the counsel for the crown that it could not be supposed that Mrs. Salisbury had any regard for the reputation of her sister. But why so? It is to be presumed that a woman of any sensibility, who had been unhappy enough to forfeit her own character, should become the more anxious to preserve that of one to whom she was bound by the ties of consanguinity. It does not follow that, because a woman has failed in the great article of personal chastity, she must therefore be deficient in every other virtue that can adorn the female mind.

Too frequently, indeed, it happens that women in this predicament become dead to all those finer feelings that do honour to their sex in particular, and to humanity in general. But then what shall be said of those men who reduce them to a situation so calamitous? Will the sudden impulse of passion be pleaded in mitigation of a crime which, in its consequences, almost always detaches a woman from the company of the virtuous of her own sex, and renders her, in a great degree, an outcast of society?

If there be any truth in the common opinion that women in general are weaker than men; it follows of course that the wisest ought to be the most virtuous; and that the man who seduces a woman, is more criminal in that act, than she is in yielding to the seduction: yet so ungenerous is the vulgar opinion, that a woman for ever loses her character in consequence of an offence which is hardly deemed criminal in a man. Agreeable hereto are the sentiments of the poet:

—— Man, the lawless libertine, may rove
Free and unquestioned through the wilds of love:
But

But woman, sense and nature's easy fool,
 If poor, weak, woman swerve from virtue's rule;
 If strongly charmed, she tempt the flowery way,
 And in the softer paths of pleasure stray,
 Ruin ensues, remorse, and endless shame,
 And one false step entirely damns her fame :
 In 'vain with tears the loss she may deplore,
 In vain look back to what she was before ;
 She sets, like stars that fall, to rise no more.

It is no credit to the humanity of the age that this should be the fact ; but as it is the fact, it should teach young women to be always on their guard for the protection of their chastity ; remembering that if that be once lost, it can never be recovered ; that it is a jewel of the highest price, and that, in most instances, the contamination of the mind follows the violation of the person, and must, of consequence, produce a long series of wretchedness.

Case of WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH, who was executed for Murder.

THIS malefactor was a native of Yorkshire, and born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a considerable trade ; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army.

After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge

and then entered into the service of a gentleman with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time: but not being content with his situation, he repaired to London; and again enlisted as a soldier, in the foot-guards.

In this station he remained four years, during two of which he was servant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him; till an incident which unexpectedly arose, occasioned the crime for which he suffered. Before we relate the particulars, it will be proper to remark that at the period of which we are writing, party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace.

While Hawksworth was marching, with other soldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James's Park a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, "What a stir
" is here about king George's soldiers!" Hawksworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated hereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree; that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time a croud of people gathered round Ransom, and finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree, that there were no hopes of his recovery; and he died in a few hours.

Hereupon a person who had been witness to what passed in the Park, went to the Savoy, and
having

having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the colonel whom he had served gave him an excellent character; but the facts were so clearly proved, that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly.

For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seemed to give up all hopes for life, and seriously prepared himself to meet his fate. He solemnly averred that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted in his own mind of the crime of murder.

However, he behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament, with signs of the sincerest devotion. A few minutes before he was executed he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over their passions: he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an injury, and if they do, are liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompence their sufferings.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1723, at the age of 27 years.

Though nothing can justify the crime of which this man was guilty, yet an useful lesson may be learnt from his fate. The situation of our common soldiers is sufficiently lamentable, and no person should seek to make their lives more calamitous by insult. The poor fellow who does duty by night and by day ; who is subject to all the strictness of military discipline, and liable at any time to be called forth, the mark of a bullet ; and all this for less than is sufficient for his support, even on the coarsest food, is certainly an object of our commiseration. We should therefore pity the distressed, and not seek to add misfortune to the miserable.

Although the crime for which Hawksworth suffered is such as ought not to be pardoned ; yet the eye of humanity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himself instigated to strike the fatal blow, little considering, at that moment that it would have proved fatal. Hence let us learn to guard against the first impulse of passion ; to reflect that reason was given us for the moderation of our passions ; and that the higher considerations of religion ought to be a perpetual restraint on those violent emotions of the mind which, in numerous instances beside the present, have led to destruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting words or aggravating actions of another, to tempt him to the commission of murder. Then let us be perpetually on our guard, remembering that

Hard names at first, and threat'ning words,

That are but noisy breath,

May grow to clubs and naked swords,

To murder and to death.

Particulars respecting THOMAS ATHOE, Senior, and THOMAS ATHOE, Junior, who were hang-
for Murder.

THE crime for which these men were tried was committed in Pembroke-shire; but they were removed by a writ of habeas-corpus to Hereford, where, on the 19th of March, 1723, they were indicted for the murder of George Merchant, by beating and kicking him on the head, face breast, &c. on the 23d of November, 1722, and thereby giving him several mortal wounds and bruises, of which he died the same day.

Athoe the elder was a native of Carew in Pembroke-shire, where he rented above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in such a respectable way, that in the year 1721 he was chosen mayor of Tenby, and his son a bailiff of the same corporation; though they did not live in this place, but at Mannerbeer, two miles distant from it.

George Merchant, who was murdered, and his brother Thomas, were nephews, by the mother's side, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his sister.

On the 23d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the prisoners went to sell cattle, and there met with the deceased and his brother Thomas Merchant; and a quarrel arose between the younger Athoe and George Merchant, on an old grudge respecting their right to part of an estate; when a battle ensued, in which the deceased had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe taking the advice of an attorney on what had passed, he would have persuaded him to bring an action; to which he replied,

plied, "No, no, we won't take the law, but we'll pay them in their own coin."

Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the deceased and his brother left the town; but the Athoes going to the inn, enquired of the ostler which way they were gone. He gave them the best information in his power, on which they immediately mounted and followed them. The brothers stopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's water, to let their horses drink. In the mean time they heard the footsteps of other horses behind them, and turning about, saw two men riding at a small distance. It was too dark for them to know the parties, but they presently heard the voice of Old Athoe.

Knowing that he had sworn revenge, and dreading the consequence that would probably ensue, they endeavoured to conceal themselves behind a bridge, but they were discovered by the splashing their horses feet made in the water. The Athoes riding up with large sticks, the younger said to George Merchant, "I owe thee a pass, and now thou shalt have it;" and immediately knocked him off his horse.

In the interim old Athoe attacked Thomas Merchant, and beat him likewise from his horse, calling out at the same time, "Kill the dogs! kill the dogs!" The brothers begged hard for their lives; but they pleaded to those who had no idea of pity. The elder Athoe seized Thomas Merchant in the tenderest part, and squeezed him in so violent a manner, that human nature could not long have sustained the pain; while the younger Athoe treated George Merchant in a similar way, and carried his revenge to such a length, that it is not possible to relate the horrid deed with decency; and when he had compleated
his

his execrable purpose, he called out to his father, saying, “ Now I have done George Merchant’s “ business.”

A great effusion of blood was the consequence of his barbarity; but it appears that his savage revenge was not yet glutted; for, seizing the deceased by the nose with his teeth, he bit it off, and then strangled him, by tying a handkerchief tight round his neck.

His being done, the murderers quitted the spot; but some persons coming by, took the Merchants to an adjacent house, and sent for a surgeon, who dressed the wounds of Thomas, but found that George was dead: and the surgeon declared that the blows he received were sufficient to have killed six or seven men; for he had two bruises on his breast, three large ones on his head, and twenty-two on his back.

The elder Athoe was taken into custody on the following day, but the son had fled to Ireland; however, those who had been concerned in favouring his escape, were glad to use their endeavours to get him back again.

On the trial, the principal evidence against them was the surviving brother; who was even then so weak as to be indulged to sit down while he gave his evidence: but the jury, though satisfied of the commission of the murder, entertained a doubt whether the prisoners could be legally tried in any county but that in which the crime was committed; on which they brought in a special verdict; whereupon the case was referred to the determination of the twelve judges; and the prisoners being brought up to London, were committed to the King’s Bench Prison, where they remained till the 22d of June, 1723, and were then taken to the court of King’s Bench in Westminster.

minster-Hall; when a motion being made by counsel in arrest of judgment, the court directed that an act of the 33d of Henry the 8th should be read, in which is a clause, ordaining that “ All
 “ murders and robberies committed in, on, or
 “ about the borders of Wales, shall be triable in
 “ any county in England, where the criminal
 “ shall be taken; and that the court of King’s-
 “ Bench shall have power to remove by writ of
 “ habeas corpus, any prisoner confined in Wales,
 “ to the next county in England to be tried.”

In consequence hereof, the court proceeded to give judgment, and the prisoners were remanded to the King’s-Bench Prison.

Between this and the time of their execution they were visited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the prison, and by several other divines. They continued to flatter themselves with the hope of life, till the warrant came down for their execution; and endeavoured to extenuate their crime by a variety of frivolous pretences respecting disputes between them and the deceased

On the 28th of June they received the sacrament with great devotion, and did the same again on the morning of their execution. Their behaviour at the place of death may not be improperly given nearly in the words of the minister who attended them. “ On Friday the 5th of
 “ July, 1723, about eleven o’clock in the morn-
 “ ing, they were conveyed in a cart to the place
 “ of execution. When they came to the fatal
 “ tree they behaved themselves in a very de-
 “ cent manner, embracing each other with the
 “ utmost tenderness and affection; and indeed
 “ the son’s hiding his face, bedewed with tears,
 “ in his father’s bosom, was, notwithstanding
 “ the

“ the barbarous action they had committed, a
“ very moving spectacle.”

“ They begged of all good people to take
“ warning by their ignominious death; and were
“ turned off, crying, Lord have mercy upon us!
“ Christ have mercy upon us! The bodies were
“ brought from the place of execution in two
“ hearles, to the Falcon Inn, in Southwark, in
“ order to be buried in St. George’s Church-
“ Yard.”

They were executed at a place called St. Thomas’s Watering, a little beyond Kent-street in Surry, the father being fifty-eight years old, and the son within one day of twenty-four, at the time of their deaths.

We shall seldom hear of a murder so barbarous, so deliberate, so unprovoked as this in question. Little, surely, need be said to deter any of our readers from the slightest idea of being guilty of a crime of so atrocious a nature; nor need we add any thing to our former remarks on so heinous an offence as that of embruing our hands in the blood of our fellow-creatures. Be it sufficient to remark that there is a just God who judgeth the earth, and that all our most secret actions are open to his sight. From his view our most careful precautions cannot screen, nor can the darkness of night cover us. Let us then learn so to conduct ourselves, as not to blush to stand in the presence of our God! Happy the man who supported by religious considerations, can arrive at this degree of Christian fortitude; which nothing can inspire but a firm persuasion that through the goodness of his Creator, and divine grace assisting, he has been enabled to preserve a conscience void of offence towards God and man.

Singular Case of Captain JOHN MASSY, who was hanged for Piracy.

THIS unhappy man, whose misfortunes seem to claim singular compassion, was the son of a gentleman of fortune in the country, who gave him a genteel education; but the disposition of the young man not being sufficiently solid to admit his living quietly at home, his father procured him a commission in the army, and he served with great applause as a lieutenant under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of queen Anne.

On his return to England he conducted himself for some time with great decency; but at length became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was so much attached that he would undoubtably have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broke off the connection.

Not long after this he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for some time in a course of continued debauchery; but at length he got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and sailed in one of their ships to direct the building a fort. The ship being ill-supplied with provisions, and those of the worst kind, the sufferings of the crew were inexpressibly great: every officer on board died except Massey, and many of the soldiers likewise fell a sacrifice to the scandalous neglect.

Those who lived to get on shore drank so greedily of the fresh water, that they were thrown into fluxes, which destroyed them in the most rapid
man-

manner; till at length only captain Massey and a very few of his people were left alive; and these; being totally unable to build a fort, and seeing no prospect of relief, began to abandon themselves to despair: but at this time a vessel happening to come near the shore, they made signals of distress, on which a boat was sent off to their relief.

They were no sooner on board than they found the vessel was a pirate; and, distressed as they had been, too hastily engaged in their lawless plan, rather than run the hazard of perishing on shore. Sailing from hence they took several prizes; and though the persons made prisoners were not used with cruelty, Mr. Massey had so true a sense of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the fatal consequences that might ensue.

At length the ship reached Jamaica, when Mr. Massey seized the first opportunity of deserting; and repairing to the governor, he gave such information, that the crew of the pirate vessel was taken into custody, convicted and hanged. Massey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with singular respect; on account of his services to the public; but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to visit his native country.

On his sailing for England the governor gave his recommendatory letters to the lords of the Admiralty; but astonishing as it may seem, instead of being carested, he was taken into custody, and committed till a session of Admiralty was held for his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death.

As his case was remarkable, the public entertained

tained no doubt but that he would have been pardoned: but a warrant was sent for his execution, and he made the most solemn preparation for his approaching fate.

Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his sins in general, was remarkable fervent in his devotions, and seemed perfectly resigned to his fatal destiny.—He suffered at Execution-dock, on the 26th of July 1723.

Mysterious are the ways of providence! To the view of short-sighted mortals it will appear that this man ought not to have suffered: but heaven thought otherwise; and “shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

It seems astonishing that Mr. Massey should plead guilty at his trial, when his joining the pirates was evidently an act of necessity, not of choice; and when his subsequent conduct at Jamaica proves that he took the earliest opportunity to abandon his late companions, and bring them to justice: a conduct by which he seems to have merited the thanks of his country, rather than the vengeance of the laws.

It is almost impossible to quit this subject, on which a volume might be written, without once more remarking on the savage inhumanity of that accursed traffic to Africa, the slave trade; a trade that is born to avarice, and nursed in blood! The English nation ought to give up its boasted claim to humanity, till this trade be abolished; and we should blush at the idea of punishing a pirate, while we openly permit a traffic that counteracts all the laws of benevolence. Shame on the people! Shame on the legislators! that can longer permit the continuance of a practice so much more than hellish:—a practice which fiends would
blush

blush to think of: but the day of retribution may be nearer than we imagine: the *present* state * of Great Britain bears not the most favourable aspect; and those who are dead to all feeling for the sufferings of others, may perhaps be alive to their own—"Vengeance is mine, and I will repay, saith the Lord."

Particulars respecting PHILIP ROCHE, who was hanged for Piracy.

THIS atrocious malefactor was a native of Ireland, and being brought up to a sea-faring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes on board a West-Indiaman; and here he endeavoured to procure the place of clerk to a factor; but failing in this, he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who hinted to him that large sums of money might be acquired for insuring ships, and then causing them to be sunk, to defraud the insurers.

Roche was wicked enough to listen to this horrid tale, and becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ship bound to Cape-Breton, he got a station on board, next in command to the captain, who having an high opinion of him, trusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he had brought on board with him five Irish-

* This was written on the 2d of June 1778.

men who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued.

When they had been only a few days at sea, the plan was executed as follows. One night, when the captain and most of the crew were asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails; which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended to the deck, than Roche and his hellish associates murdered them, and threw them overboard. At this instant a man and a boy at the yard-arm observed what passed, and dreading a similar fate, hurried toward the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and seizing the boy, threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect at least a present escape, descended to the main deck, where Roache instantly seized, and murdered him, and then threw him overboard.

The noise occasioned by these transactions alarmed the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition; but they were severally seized and murdered as fast as they came on deck, and being first knocked on the head, were thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarter deck, when Roche and his villainous companions seized them, and tying them back to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

These execrable murderers being perpetrated, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased, and then sat down to regale themselves with liquor; and while the profligate crew were carousing, they determined to commence pirates, and that Roche should be the captain, as the reward of his superior villainy.

They

The had intended to have sailed up the gulph of St. Lawtence; but as they were within a few days sail of the British channel when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and giving the vessel a fictitious name, they painted her afresh, and then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown; and an English gentleman, named Annesley, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the port of London: but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at sea.

When the ship arrived in the river Thames Mr. Annesley's friends made enquiry after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England, describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied having any knowledge of the gentleman; and even disclaimed his own name.

Notwithstanding his confident assertions it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the secretary of state for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shewn him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty sessions.

It was intimated to Roche that he might expect a pardon, if he would impeach any three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction: but not being able to do this, he was brought to his trial,

trial, and found guilty, judgment of death was awarded against him.

After conviction he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, since he attended the devotions according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock on the 5th of August, 1723, but was so ill at the time that he could not make any public declaration of the abhorrence of the crime for which he suffered.

It is impossible to read this shocking narrative without execrating the very memory of the wretches whose crimes give rise to it. History has not furnished us with any account of what became of the wicked accomplices of Roche; but there can be little doubt of their having dragged on a miserable existence, if they did not end their lives at the gallows.

The mind of the guilty must be perpetually racked with torments; and the murderer who is permitted to live does but live in wretchedness and despair. His days must be filled with anxiety, and his nights with torture.

From the fate of the miserable subject of this narrative let our sailors be taught that an honest pursuit of the duties of their station is more likely to ensure happiness to them, than the possession of any sum of money unlawfully obtained. Our brave tars are not, from their situation in life, much accustomed to the attendance on religious duties; but it can cost them no trouble to recollect, that to "do justice and love mercy" is equally the character of the brave man and the christian; that a delight in wrong and robbery argues the greatest folly, and commonly ends in bitter remorse; and tho' "men may live fools, yet tools they cannot die."

The

The Cases of WILLIAM DUCE, and JAMES BUTLER, who were hanged for Robbery.

DUCE was a native of Wolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which he followed some time in London; but being imprisoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connections which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners.

He was no sooner at large than he commenced foot-pad, and, in company with another man, robbed a gentleman in Chelsea Fields of four guineas: after this he connected himself with John Dyer, and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out together, but one only to attack the party intended to be robbed; but to give a signal for his accomplices to come up, if any resistance should be made.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a scheme with four other villains to rob lady Chudleigh, between Hyde-Park Corner and Kensington: but her ladyship's footman shot one of the gang, named Rice, through the head, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been so numerous, that the neighbourhood of London became unsafe for them; wherefore they went on the Portsmouth road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection.

Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer, near a wood on the road side, they robbed him of his money, and then dragging him into the wood, they stripped

him and Duce firing at him with a pistol, the ball lodged in his mouth.

They now imagined the man was dead, and were about to depart, when Mr. Bunch turning, Butler loaded another pistol, in order to dispatch him; on which he begged that they would yet spare his life; but finding that they entertained no sentiments of compassion, he exerted all his strength, and springing on his legs, ran off, and alarming the inhabitants of an adjacent village; immediate pursuit was made after the villains, all of whom were apprehended except Duce, who escaped, and got to London.

Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Winchester: but Butler was sent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middlesex.

JAMES BUTLER was the son of reputable parents of the parish of St. Ann, Soho, and apprenticed to a silversmith; but being of an ungovernable disposition, his parents were obliged to send him to sea. After making several voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ship at Boston in New-England, and went to New-York, where he entered on board another ship, from which he likewise ran away, and embarked in a third vessel, bound to Martinico. This he also quitted, on a dispute with the captain, and then sailed to Jamaica, where he was impressed into the royal navy, and served under the celebrated admiral Vernon.

On his return to England, he married a girl of Wapping, and having soon spent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang we have mentioned, with whom he was likewise concerned in several robberies

These

These appear to have been very desperate villains. On the road to Gravesend they stopped four gentlemen, who refusing to be robbed, Meads (one of those hanged at Winchester,) shot a servant who attended them, in the breast, so that he died in a few days. Disappointed of their booty in this attempt, their passions were so irritated, that, meeting a gentleman on horseback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breast, and the next day he expired.

They committed other robberies attended with circumstances of cruelty; but it will be now proper to mention those for which they suffered: Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey, of the crime for which he was transmitted from Winchester, he and Duce and Dyer immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes near Buckingham-house, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief, which laid the foundation of one of the indictments against them.

On the following evening they stopped a hackney coachman near Hampltead, and robbed him of nine shillings, after the coachman had told them that the words, "stand and deliver," were sufficient to hang a man. Jonathan Wild being informed of these robberies, caused the offenders to be apprehended, at a house kept by Duce's sister.

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler were brought to their trial, when the latter pleaded guilty to both the indictments; and the former, after spending some time in denying the robberies, and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was more resigned and devout than could have been expected from men whose repeated crimes might be supposed to have hardened their hearts; but death appeared to them in all its horrors. Butler was a Roman Catholic, and Duce a Protestant. The latter was urged by the Ordinary to discover the names of some of his old accomplices: but this he refused to do, because they had left their practices, and lived honest lives.

A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended gave him more pain than the thoughts of death: and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured.

They were hanged at Tyburn, on the 14th of August, 1723.

A few short reflections naturally occur on the fate of these men. Butler, having been disobedient when a boy, was sent to sea in order to reclaim him. This is a common practice; but we cannot see how it is calculated to answer the designed end: what doctrines of morality or religion can a boy be expected to learn amidst the curses and execrations of sailors? But we believe one great reason why young offenders are sent to sea is, that they may be out of the way of disgracing their parents and relations by their presence, and of pursuing their bad practices on shore.

The cruelties these malefactors perpetrated, will hand down their names with intamy to posterity; and ought to impress on the minds of young people the horrid crime of robbery, which may naturally lead to the greater crime of murder.

der. By truth in all our words, and justice and mercy in our actions, we shall most effectually secure our happiness in this world; and by the aid of religion, and the mercy of God, may become successful candidates for eternal bliss in that which is to come!

The life and Transactions of HUMPHREY ANGIER, who was hanged for Robbery.

THIS offender was a native of Ireland, and born near Dublin; but his parents removing to Corke, put him apprentice to a cooper in that city. He had not been long in this station before his master desired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward disposition. Being discharged from his service, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years, and his father apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England in the eighteenth year of his age.

Still, however, he continued his dissipated course of life, till having got considerably in debt, he enlisted for a soldier, to avoid being lodged in prison. As this happened in the year 1715, he was sent to Scotland to oppose the rebels; but robbing a farmer in that country, he was punished by receiving 500 lashes, in consequence of the sentence of a court martial.

The rebellion being ended, Angier came to London, and obtained his discharge. Here he became acquainted with William Duce, mentioned in the preceeding article, and married a sister of Duce at an alehouse in the verge of the Fleet.

After

After this he enlisted for a soldier, and the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him; and when the greater part of the Spaniards had abandoned the place, Angier obtained a considerable sum by plunder. On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's associates, and was concerned with them in several of their lawless depredations, but refused to have any share in acts of barbarity.

Angier now kept a house of ill-fame, which was resorted to by the other thieves; and one night after they had been out on one of their exploits, one Meads, (whose name we have before recorded,) told the following horrid tale: "We
 " have been out; and the best fun of all was an
 " engagement with a smock-faced shoemaker,
 " whom we met on the Kentish-road. We asked
 " him how far he was going, and he said he
 " was just married, and going home to see his
 " relations. After a little more discourse, we
 " persuaded him to turn a little out of the road
 " to look for a bird's-nest; but as soon as we
 " had got him a little out of the road, we bound
 " and gagged him, after which we robbed him,
 " and were going away; but I being in a merry
 " humour, and wanting to have a little diversion,
 " turned about with my pistol, and shot him
 " through the head." Bad as Angier was in other respects, he was shocked at this story, told his companions that there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refused to drink with any of them.

After this Angier kept a house of ill-fame near Charing-Cross, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving stolen goods. While in this way of life he went to see an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning;
 and

and in his absence an incident arose which was attended with troublesome consequences. A Dutch woman meeting with a gentleman in the street, conducted him to Angier's house, where he drank so freely that he fell asleep, when the woman robbed him of his watch and money, and made her escape. The gentleman awaking when Angier returned, charged him with the robbery, in consequence of which he was committed to prison, but soon afterwards discharged, the grand jury not finding the bill against him.

Not long after he got free of this trouble, his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but had the good fortune to be acquitted in defect of evidence.

The following accident happened about the same time: A woman named Turner had drank so much at Angier's house that he conducted her up to bed; but while he was in the room with her his wife entered like a fury, and demanding how Turner could presume to keep company with her husband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce being in the house, went up to interfere; but the disturbance was by this time so great, that it was necessary to send for a constable.

The officer no sooner arrived, than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her; on which they were taken into custody and committed: but when they were brought to trial, they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the satisfaction of the jury.

Dyer, who was evidence against Duce and Butler, as mentioned in the preceding narrative, lived at this time with Angier as a waiter; and the master and man used occasionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were
several

several times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey; but acquitted, because the prosecutors could not swear to their persons.

Angier's character now grew so notorious, that no person of common decency would be seen in his house; and the expences attending his repeated prosecutions were so great, that from these united causes he was compelled to decline business.

After this, however, he kept a gin-shop in Short's-Gardens, Drury-lane; and this house was frequented by company of the same kind as those he had formerly entertained, and among the rest parson Lindsey, who has been heretofore mentioned in this work. Lindsey having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this house, made him drunk, and then robbed him of several valuable articles; but procuring himself to be admitted an evidence, charged Angier and his wife with the robbery: but they had again the good fortune to escape, because the character of Lindsey was by this time so infamous, that the court and jury paid no regard to any thing that he said.

Not long after this, Mrs. Angier was transported for picking a gentleman's pocket, and her husband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marshall, near Hornsey, of ten guineas and some silver, and the other for robbing a waggoner near Knightsbridge. On both these trials, Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence against Angier.

After conviction, Angier was visited by numbers of persons, whose pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting some intelligence of the property they had lost; but he

he told them he was never guilty of such mean actions as picking of pockets ; and he said that none of his associates ever followed this practice, but one Hugh Kelly, who was transported for robbing a woman of a shroud, which she was carrying home, to cover her deceased husband.

Angier's father died of a broken heart soon after he heard of his commitment. While under sentence of death, he behaved with great penitence : confessed his crimes : said he had never been happy in the commission of them ; and expressed a willingness to die, as what he hoped might be a compensation for his sins.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 9th of September, 1723, and just before he was turned off, advised young people to be obedient to their parents, as a failure in that important duty was the first step to his destruction.

Angier had a longer course of wickedness than falls to the lot of most offenders ; but he was at length cut off, and fell a sacrifice to the rigour of the laws. We find he confessed he had never been happy ; nor indeed can any criminal ever expect to be so : those who fail in their duty, entail wretchedness on themselves. The only way to be happy, is to be virtuous : while guilt inevitably leads to misery and shame. No person, then, in his senses, can hesitate which path to chuse. “ The wise (says Solomon) shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools.”

“ To be good, is to be happy : Angels

“ Are happier than men, because they're better.”

ACCOUNT of RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT, ROBERT KINGSHELL, HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, and JAMES ANSELL, commonly called the *Waltham Blacks*, who were hanged for Murder.

THE actions of these offenders became so much the object of public notice, that it was deemed proper to frame a particular act of parliament in order to bring them to justice. Having blacked their faces they went in the day-time to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the bishop of Winchester's keeper on Waltham-Chace; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the *Waltham Blacks*.

The following is the substance of the act of parliament on which they were convicted: "Any
 " person appearing in any forest, chace, park,
 " &c. or in any high road, open heath, com-
 " mon, or down, with offensive weapons, and
 " having his face blacked, or otherwise disguised,
 " or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding,
 " killing or stealing any red or fallow deer, or
 " unlawfully robbing any warren, &c. or steal-
 " ing any fish out of any river or pond, or (whe-
 " ther armed and disguised or not) breaking
 " down the head or mound of any fish-pond,
 " whereby the fish may be lost or destroyed; or
 " unlawfully, and maliciously killing, maiming,
 " or wounding any cattle, or cutting down, or
 " otherwise destroying any trees planted in any
 " avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard,
 " or plantation, for ornament, shelter, or profit;
 " or setting fire to any house, barn, or outhouse,
 " hovel,

The WALTHAM BLACKS—for Murder. 363

“ hovel, cock, mow, or stack of corn, straw,
“ hay, or wood; or maliciously shooting at any
“ person, in any dwelling-house or other place;
“ or knowingly sending any letter without any
“ name, or signed with a fictitious name, demand-
“ ing money, venison, or other valuable thing,
“ or forcibly rescuing any person being in cus-
“ tody for any of the offences before-mentioned,
“ or procuring any person by gift, or promise of
“ money, or other reward, to join in any such
“ unlawful act, or concealing or succouring such
“ offenders, when by order of council, &c. re-
“ quired to surrender—shall suffer death.”

The offence of deer-stealing was formerly only a misdemeanor at common law; but the act of parliament above-mentioned has been rendered perpetual by a subsequent statute: it therefore behoves people to be cautious that they do not endanger their lives, while they think they are committing what they may deem an inferior offence. We will now give such particulars as we have been able to obtain respecting the malefactors in question.

RICHARD PARVIN was heretofore the master of a public-house in Portsmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with the gang of ruffians who practised the robbing noblemen's and gentlemen's parks through the country. The reader is already apprised that it was the custom of these fellows to go disguised. Now a servant-maid of Parvin's having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an alehouse in the country; and Parvin calling there on his return from one of his dishonest expeditions, the girl discovered him; in consequence of which he was

committed to Winchester Gaol, by the mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

EDWARD ELLIOT was an apprentice to a taylor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whose orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumstance occasioned his leaving them. Having met with two countrymen who refused to enter into the society, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them, up to their chins, and had they not been relieved by persons who accidentally saw them, they must have perished. Shocked by this deed, Elliot left them, and for some time served a lady as a footman; but on the day the keeper was murdered, he casually met them in the fields, and, on their promise that no harm should attend him, he unhappily consented to bear them company.

Having provided themselves with pistols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawless depredations; and while the rest of the gang were killing of deer, Elliot went in search of a fawn; but while he was looking for it, the keeper and his assistants came up, and took him into custody. His associates were near enough to see what happened; and immediately coming to his assistance, a violent affray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshall, so that he died on the spot, and Elliot made his escape; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

ROBERT KINGSHELL, who was a native of Farnham in Surry, was placed by his parents with a shoemaker; but being too idle to follow his profession, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity,
before

The WALTHAM BLACKS—for Murder. 365

before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards suffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked him, by knocking at his window, on which he arose, and went with him to join the rest of the deer-stealers.

HENRY MARSHAL was a man distinguished for his strength and agility: we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but it is reasonable to think that the latter was of the inferior kind, since he appears to have been chiefly distinguished by his skill in the vulgar science of bruising. He was once the occasion of apprehending a highwayman, who had robbed a coach, by giving him a single blow which broke his arm. He seems to have been one of the most daring of the Waltham Blacks, and was the man who shot the chace-keeper, as above-mentioned.

EDWARD PINK and JOHN PINK were brothers, who spent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portsmouth, and had maintained the character of honest men till they became weak enough to join the desperate gang of deer-stealers.

It now remains to speak only of JAMES ANSEL, who likewise lived at Portsmouth. We are not informed in what way he had originally supported himself; but for some years before he joined the desperate gang above-mentioned he was a highwayman; and had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commission of the murder which cost them their lives.

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power, all the above-mentioned offenders, were taken into custody, and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither

ther under a strong guard, and lodged in Newgate.

On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the clearest evidence, were found guilty and sentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they should suffer on the fourth of the next month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion:—the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence, than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue: nor did he recover his speech till the day before his death.

After passing the solemn sentence, the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and resigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themselves for eternity with every mark of unfeigned contrition. They received the sacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the justice of the sentence against them, and said they had been guilty of many crimes besides that for which they were to suffer.

At the place of execution they were so dejected as to be unable to address the populace; but they again confessed their sins, and recommended their souls to God, beseeching his mercy; through the merits of Christ, with the utmost fervency of devotion.

These malefactors were hanged at Tyburn, on the 4th of December, 1723,

A very short, though important lesson, may be learnt from the fate of these unhappy men. Idleness must have been the great source of their lawless depredations, which at length ended in murder. No man, however successful in the
pro-

profession, can expect to get as much profit by deer-steeling, as by following his lawful business. The truth is, that, in almost every instance, it costs a man more pains to be a rogue than to be honest. Exclusive of the duties of religion, young persons cannot learn a more important maxim than that in the scripture; “the hand of “the diligent maketh rich.”

In this place it may not be improper to make a single remark on the game laws. These are supposed to be, possibly not without reason, severe: it is contended that those animals which are wild by nature are equally the property of every man. Perhaps this is the truth: but persons in the lower ranks of life should remember, that when laws are once enacted, THEY MUST BE OBEYED. Safety lies in acquiescence with, not in opposition to, legal institutions.

Particulars respecting JOHN STANLEY, who was hanged for murder.

MR. STANLEY was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce Hall in Essex, a seat that belonged to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by the mother's side. Young Stanley being the favourite of his father, the latter began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when he was but a mere boy: for, to stimulate his courage, it was common for those who fenced with him to give him wine, or other strong liquors,

In

In consequence of this treatment the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a degree of audacity that his father deemed him a singular character of bravery.

While he was very young Mr. Stanley being ordered to join his regiment in Spain, took his son with him; and in that country he was a spectator of several engagements, but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceased, after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an ensign's commission: but the young gentleman, habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of his commission, which he soon sold, and then returned to England.

The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and advised him to make application to general Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family: but this advice was lost on the young fellow, who abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life; borrowed money of all his acquaintance, which he soon squandered at the gaming tables, and procured farther supplies from women with whom he made illicit connections.

He was so vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boasted of their favours as an argument in proof of his own accomplishments; though what he might obtain from the weakness of one woman, he commonly squandered on others, of more abandoned character.

One mode which he took to supply his extravagance, was to introduce himself into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted

quainted with the vices of the age, whom he assisted in wasting their fortunes in every species of scandalous dissipation.

At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boasted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern, and saying he was come to make himself welcome, would sit down at the table without farther ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace; but when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and, drawing his sword, walk off while the company was in confusion. It was not always, however, that matters thus ended; for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

It will now be proper to mention something of his connection with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom cost him his life. As he was returning from a gaming-house which he frequented in Covent-Garden, he met a Mr. Bryan of Newgate-street, and his sister, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate-Hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man, and embraced the woman; on which a quarrel arose; but this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home: this he did, and spent the evening with them; and from

this circumstance a fatal connection arose, as will appear in the sequel.

Stanley having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the house of a relation in Red-Lion-Street, Holborn. In a short time Mr. Maycock removing into Southwark, the visits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connection, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow; and it appears that some considerable intimacy subsisted between them, from the following letter, which is not more a proof of the absurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. The egregious coxcomb, and supercilious flatterer, is visible in every line.

“ I am to-morrow to be at the Opera; O that
 “ I could add, with her I love. The Opera,
 “ where beauties less beauteous than thou, sit
 “ panting, admired, and taste the sweet barbarian
 “ sounds. On Friday I shall be at the masquerade at Somerset House, where modest pleasure
 “ hides itself, before it will be touched: but
 “ though it is uncertain in the shape, ’tis real in
 “ the sense; for masks scorn to steal, and not
 “ repay: therefore, as they conceal the face,
 “ they oft make the body the better known. At
 “ this end of the town, many faded beauties bid
 “ the oleos and the brush kiss their cheeks and
 “ lips, till their charms only glimmer with a
 “ borrowed grace; so that a city beauty, rich in
 “ her native spring of simplicity and loveliness,
 “ will doubly shine with us; shine like the inno-
 “ cent

“cent morning blush of light, that glitters untainted on the gardens.”

This exquisite piece of nonsense flattered the vanity of the lady, so that he was admitted to repeat his visits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow who had served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was possessed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addresses to the young widow; but she preferred a licentious life with Stanley, to a more virtuous connection.

Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers spent their time at balls, plays, and assemblies, till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal of her favours to other persons. In the mean time she bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, in fear of the fatal consequences that might ensue; and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape-Coast Castle, in the service of the African company.

The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment, that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark: but he had been only a few days in that town, when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching, and then leaving her to starve: and employing all the arts she was mistress of to divert him from

his resolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the company, and followed her to London with the rest.

Shocked with the news of this dishonourable action the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and to divert his chagrin, he went to Flanders, where he staid a considerable time, when he returned to England, and lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drank freely with two tradesmen, they all walked together towards Hampstead; and meeting a Mr. Dawson, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel ensued. One of the gentlemen fired a pistol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's skin. Enraged hereby, the latter drew his sword, and making a pass at him the sword ran into the body of Mr. Dawson, through the lower part of his belly, and to his backbone. The wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where he lay six weeks before he was perfectly recovered.

However, as Dawson happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ against him for damages, to recover the expence of the cure; but the writ was never executed, as Stanley was so celebrated for his skill in the use of his sword, and his daring disposition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arrest him.

Not long after this, quarrelling with captain Chickley, at a cyder-cellar in Covent-Garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight in a dark room. They shut themselves in; but a constable being sent for, broke open the door, and probably saved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then ran his sword through his body, while he himself had received only two slight wounds.

It appears that Stanley still paid occasional visits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the insolence to pretend anger at her receiving the visits of other persons, though he was not able to support her; for he had the vanity to think that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to bear true allegiance to him, as a wife to her husband.

Mrs. Maycock having been to visit a gentleman, was returning one night through Chancery-Lane, in company with another woman, and Mr. Hammond of the Old Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon said the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock now recognizing Stanley, said, "What, captain, is it you?" He asked her where she was going: she said to Mr. Hammond's in the Old Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet-street, Stanley desired his companions to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward, Stanley struck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Being arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home; but this he refused, and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he pushed in after her, and some words having passed between them, he stabbed her so that she died in about an hour and a half.

Other company going into the kitchen saw Stanley flourishing his sword, while the deceased was fainting with loss of blood, and crying out, "I am stabbed! I am murdered!" Stanley's sword being taken from him, he threw himself
down

down by Mrs. Maycock, and said, "My dear Hannah, will you not speak to me?"

The offender being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, where some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices only, and the evidence against him being positive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before his conviction he had behaved in a very inconsiderate manner, nor was his conduct much altered afterwards, only that when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned, he was seized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold sweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning coach; but on being put into the cart under the gallows, he turned pale, and was so weak that he could not stand without support. He made no speech to the people, but only said that as a hearse was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Christian burial. It was observed that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1723, at the age of twenty-five years.

It is impossible to dismiss this subject without reflecting on the absurd conduct of Stanley's father, who by his eagerness to teach him, while an infant, the use of the sword, gave him that degree of false bravery, and mad courage, that tempted him to the unlawful use of it on every occasion; and at length combining with his vices, occasioned the perpetration of the horrid crime of murder: a murder of the most aggravated nature; that of a woman who had fallen a sacri-

sacrifice to his art of seduction, aided, no doubt, by her own uncontrolable vanity.

The unhappy fate of Mrs. Maycock should teach married women the inestimable value of chastity. The woman who listens to the art of a seducer is in the high-road to destruction; and as surely as she suffers her person to be violated, she entails misery on herself and family, and lays the ground-work of a long series of repentance: and happy may she think herself if, by the grace of God, that repentance prove not ineffectual.

Case of STEPHEN GARDENER, who was hanged for Burglary.

THIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver; but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severely; on which he ran away, and associated with blackguard boys in the streets, and then was driven home through mere hunger.

His friends now determined to send him to sea, and put him on board a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. Being an idle and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates that he grew heartily tired of a sea-faring life; and on his return from the first voyage, he promised the utmost obedience, if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

This was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint, he soon quitted his service, and engaged with dissolute
fel.

fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c. till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pick-pocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horse-pond.

He was now determined to give over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious house-breakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as partner; but he rejected their proposals, till one night, when he had lost all his money and most of his cloaths, at cards; then he went to his new acquaintance, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Garraway proposed, that they should rob his own brother, which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they sold, and spent the money in extravagance. They in the next place robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named Gill, who disposed of the plate, and never accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill-got booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evi-



Could detain!

Pollard sculp.

The BELL-MAN at St. Sepulchres, speaking the admonitory Words to the Malefactor's going to Execution.

evidence against the other men, who were convicted, but respited on condition of being transported.

Gardener having now been some time acquainted with a woman who kept a public-house in Fleet-Lane, and who was possessed of some money, he proposed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property; and the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet-parsons.

The money Gardener obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance; and not long afterwards they were apprehended on suspicion of felony, and conducted to St. Sepulchre's watch-house: however, the charge against them not being validated, it was necessary to dismiss them; but before they were set at liberty, the constable said to Gardener, "Beware how you come here again, or this bell-man will certainly say his verses over you:" for the bell-man happened to be at that time in the watch-house.

It has been a very antient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bell-man of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses as a piece of friendly advice, to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death.

All you that in the condemn'd-hold do lie,
 Prepare you, for to morrow you shall die.
 Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near
 That you before th' Almighty must appear.
 Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
 That you may not t' eternal flames be sent:

And when St. Sepulchre's bell to morrow tolls,
 The Lord above have mercy on your souls !
 Past twelve o'clock !

The following extract from Stowe's Survey of London, page 195, of the quarto edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to be repeated by a clergyman, instead of the bell-man.

“ Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant Taylor,
 “ of London,—gaue to the parish church of
 “ St. Sepulchres, the summe of 50l. That after
 “ the seuerall sessions of London, when the pri-
 “ soners remaine in the goale, as condemned
 “ men to death, expecting execution on the mor-
 “ row following : the clarke, (that is, the parson)
 “ of the church shoold come in the night-time,
 “ and likewise early in the morning, to the win-
 “ dow of the prison where they lye, and there
 “ ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appoint-
 “ ed for the purpose, he doth afterward (in most
 “ Christian manner) put them in mind of their
 “ present condition, and ensuing execution, de-
 “ siring them to be prepared therefore as they
 “ ought to be. When they are in the cart, and
 “ brought before the wall of the church, there he
 “ standeth ready with the same bel, and after cer-
 “ tain toles rehearseth an appointed praier, de-
 “ siring all the people there present to pray for
 “ them. The beadle also of Merchant-Tailors
 “ Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that
 “ this is duely done.”

Gardener was greatly affected when the con-
 stable told him that the bell man would say his
 verses

verfes over him : but the impreffion it made on his mind foon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a fhort time after this adventure, Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the *paſſing lay*, which is an artifice frequently practiſed in modern times and though the ſharpers are often taken into cuſtody, and their tricks expoſed in the news-papers yet there are repeatedly found people weak enough to ſubmit to the impoſition.

The following is a deſcription of this trick from a book formerly printed. “ The rogues having
“ concerted their plan, one of them takes a
“ countryman into a public-house, under pre-
“ tence of any buſineſs they can think of; then
“ the other comes in as a ſtranger, and in a little
“ time finds a pack of cards, which his com-
“ panion had deſignedly laid on ſome ſhelf in the
“ room : on which the two ſharpers begin to
“ play. At length one of them offers a wager
“ on the game, and puts down his money. The
“ other ſhows his cards to the countryman, to
“ convince him that he muſt certainly win, and
“ offers to let him go halves in the wager; but
“ ſoon after the countryman has laid down his
“ money, the ſharpers manage the matter ſo as
“ to *paſs off* with it.

This was evidently the mode of tricking formerly; but it ſeems to have been improved on of late years; for the ſharpers generally game with the countryman till he has loſt all his money; and then he has only to execrate his own folly for ſuffering himſelf to be duped by a couple of rafcals.

In this practice our adventurers were very ſucceſſful at different places, particularly at Briſtol; but

but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the observation of "honour among thieves;" for Jones having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced cloaths, and about a hundred guineas, gave no share of the booty to Gardener.

This induced the latter to think of revenge; but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey; but in the morning on which they set out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come into an unfrequented place.

On their journey Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle, with an intention to perpetrate the murder: but his resolution failing him, he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion.

In a few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted; and on this occasion Jones said, "Hark ye, Gardener, whither are you going?" "—To London," (said he.) "Why then (replied Jones) you are going to be hanged."

We find that this was not the first intimation that Gardener received of the fatal consequence that must attend his illicit practices: but it appeared to have no good effect on him; for soon after he quitted Jones, he broke open a house between Abergavenny and Monmouth; but finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off.

Soon after his arrival in London he robbed a house in Addle-hill, but was not apprehended for it: but in a short time he broke open the house

of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds.

In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin; and both the offenders being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted; and received sentence of death; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission; and before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other cloaths, though the weather was intensely cold.

At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning by his calamitous fate; to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 3d of February, 1724.

The fate of this malefactor shews us the ill consequence of an early attachment to gaming. It unfits both the mind and body for all honest employment, and though it does not in all instances lead to the gallows, it is one of the readiest preparatives to it than can be imagined. It is to be hoped that parents in general will be cautious to prevent the spirit of gaming in their children, since nothing more effectually allures to destruction; and the happiness of the next generation must depend much on the care we take of the present.

We with the tricks so frequently and successfully played by gamblers, may teach people in general,

general, and country farmers in particular, to be guarded against their arts. People who have no bad design of their own are not apt to suspect others : but any person may be certain that when a stranger produces a pack of cards, and tempts him to game, no good can be intended. The life of a gambler is not only wretched in itself, but tends to make unhappy all those with whom he is connected.

Particulars respecting FRANCIS BRIGHTWELL, and BENJAMIN BRIGHTWELL, who were tried for Highway-Robbery, and acquitted.

AS it is one professed design of this publication to give trials in extraordinary cases, on which the parties accused have been acquitted; in compliance with this rule we insert the following, though it will be seen that the supposed offenders, so far from being thieves, were an ornament to human nature.

In the month of August, 1724, Francis Brightwell, and Benjamin Brightwell, were indicted for assaulting John Pargiter on the highway, and robbing him of three shillings.

It was sworn by M. Pargiter, that he had been robbed on the road to Hampstead, by two fellows* dressed in soldiers cloaths; and that being on the same road a few days afterwards, he was shewing some farmers the spot where he had been robbed, at the very time when the Brightwell's came in sight;

* In the course of the following pages it will appear that this robbery was committed by Sheppard and Blueskin.

fight; on which he declared that they were the persons who had robbed him; whereupon they were immediately taken into custody; which was a work of no great difficulty, as the surprise on being charged with a crime of which they were wholly innocent deprived them of all idea of resistance.

These brothers were soldiers in the grenadier guards, and when they were carried before a magistrate, though Mr. Pargiter swore positively to their persons, Francis alledged that he was on guard at the time of the robbery, and Benjamin said that he was at home.

On the trial, the serjeant produced the regimental book, from which it was evident that, when the robbery was committed, Francis was on guard at Kensington: and several persons of reputation proved that Benjamin was at his lodgings in Clare-Market; and likewise gave him an excellent character.

With regard to Francis, Mr. Hughs, a clergyman, delivered his testimony in the following words, “ I have known Francis Brightwell near twenty years. He was always reputed to be a person of the fairest character, for sobriety, piety, and justice. He was, to an extraordinary degree, accomplished with Latin and Greek literature, and had good skill in Roman antiquities; and in a word, he carried so great a share of exquisite learning under his grenadier’s cap, that I believe there is not such another grenadier in the universe.”

This testimony of Mr. Hughs was confirmed by a number of military officers; and the court and jury considering that Mr. Pargiter must have been mistaken in the parties who robbed him, the brothers were honourably acquitted.

On

On the 22d of the month in which he was tried, Francis Brightwell died at his lodgings at Paddington, as supposed of the goal distemper. He was attended, during his short illness, by the late eminent Sir Hans Sloan; but the malignity of his disorder defied the power of medicine.

The following curious letter, respecting Francis Brightwell, is extracted from the news-paper, called the British Journal, of the 5th of September, 1724.

SIR,

Finding that all our public papers, from the 4th of August to this day have omitted to make honourable mention of some very remarkable circumstances relating to a very private person, I desire his memory may be deposited in your journal. The person I mean, is Francis Brightwell the grenadier, who was tried and acquitted at the Old-Bailey, for a robbery sworn against him; and who, since his coming out of prison, died, as 'tis said, of the goal distemper.

When evidence was given against him in court, Brightwell, by several witnesses, proved that he was upon the king's guard, at Kensington, at the time that the robbery (if a robbery) was committed. Hereupon the court went into an enquiry concerning the reputation and character of the prisoner. Some officers who had known him long in the service, gave testimony to his sobriety and diligence in the duty of a soldier. As to his honesty a lady (present in court) declared, she had entrusted him with a thousand pounds at a time; and, a gentleman, that he had committed his house and goods, to the value of 6000*l.* to his keeping; in both which trusts Brightwell had ac-
quit-

quitted himself to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

These ample testimonies, concurring to the honour of a man in so low a condition of life, gave (you may imagine) no small surprise to all that were present; when a clergyman added, to their astonishment, by declaring, that he had long known the prisoner to be not only a person of sobriety but likewise of very excellent learning and particularly in Latin and Greek: for, that Brightwell had often consulted him, upon difficult passages in Virgil and Horace.

Thus much for what appeared at the trial of this grenadier. I shall only remark upon his learning, that I am amazed that scholarship is not very common among military men, considering their profession admits of more leisure hours than any other. Perhaps these gentlemen are afraid of knowledge, from a celebrated maxim delivered by John Dryden, *the learned are all cowards by profession*: and yet Alexander and Cæsar were scholars; and they did not seem to want courage.

But, to pursue what further particulars I have learned of this deceased grenadier. He was contented in his station, studious of leisure, and ambitious only of knowledge. He had offers of being promoted to the rank of corporal or serjeant; which he declined, that he might have as few avocations as possible from his studies. Neither did he ever covet money; and, I am apt to believe, had he been at the sacking of a town, he would not have thought of carrying off any other plunder, but a valuable book or two. Take the following instance of his disregard of gain. He had an excellent manner of cleaning and furbishing arms, for which he had his settled prices. An

officer, whose arms he had brightened, was so well pleased with his work, that he sent Brightwell (over and above the usual price) a guinea for a present. The philosopher took his price, and returned the guinea by the servant. Some time after, when the gentleman saw him, *why*, said he, *would you not accept the guinea I sent you : I am paid for my work*, replied the centinel, *and desire no more—Accept of a crown then, if your modesty makes you think a guinea too much*, said the officer.—*Excuse me, Sir*, answered the Veteran, *and do not think it vanity or affectation, when I refuse your kindness ; but, indeed, Sir, I don't want it : But I am thirsty and have no money about me ; so that if your honour will be pleased to give me three-pence to drink your health, I shall thankfully accept of it.*

This last particular of our grenadier runs so very parallel with a story in Sir William Temple's observations of the united Provinces, that I think it proper to transcribe it on this occasion. Vol. I. p. 50. “ Among the many and various
 ‘ hospitals that are in every man’s curiosity and
 ‘ talk that travels Holland, I was affected with
 ‘ none more than that of the aged seamen at En-
 ‘ chusyden, which is contrived, finished, and
 ‘ ordered, as if it were done with a kind inten-
 ‘ tion of some well natured man, that those, who
 ‘ had passed their whole lives in the hardships and
 ‘ incommodities of the sea, should find a retreat,
 ‘ stored with all the ease and conveniency that old
 ‘ age is capable of feeling and enjoying. And
 ‘ here I met with the only rich man that I ever
 ‘ saw in my life : for one of these old seamen,
 ‘ entertaining me with the plain stories of his fifty-
 ‘ years voyages and adventures, while I was
 ‘ viewing this hospital and the church adjoining,
 ‘ gave him, at parting, a piece of their coin,
 ‘ about

‘ about the value of a crown : he took it smiling,
 ‘ and offered it me again ; but when I refused it,
 ‘ he asked me what he should do with the money ?
 ‘ I left him to overcome his modesty as he could ;
 ‘ but a servant coming after me, saw him give it
 ‘ to a little girl, that opened the church door, as
 ‘ she past by him : which made me reflect on the
 ‘ fantastick calculation of riches and poverty,
 ‘ that is current to the world, by which a man
 ‘ that wants a million is a prince, he that wants
 ‘ but a groat is a beggar, and this was *a poor man*
 ‘ *that wanted nothing at all.*’

The case of these brothers affords an admirable lesson to prosecutors to be cautious how they swear to the identity of persons. It is better that the guilty should escape, than that the innocent should be punished.

It likewise affords us an instance of the mysterious Providence of God. Two innocent men are charged with a crime; and the consequence of imprisonment, and possibly of grief, ends in the death of one of them. We may presume that he was too good for this wicked world; and that the Almighty chose this method of calling him to a better!

The Life and Transactions of JOSEPH BLAKE, otherwise Blueskin, who was hanged for Burglary.

THIS offender, who was a native of London, was sent to school by his parents for the space of six years; but he made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he made

an acquaintance with William Blewit, who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, and became one of the most notorious villains of the age.

No sooner had Blake left school than he commenced pickpocket, and had been in all the prisons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street-robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For some of the robberies they committed they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted.

In consequence of these convictions Blake claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government: but he was informed by the court that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence, since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and therefore he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported.

Not being able to give the requisite security, he was lodged in Wood-street Compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which Jonathan Wild allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognizance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. A gentleman who happened to be present at Sir John's, asked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey; to which another gentleman answered, "three sessions;

“ sions ;” and he happened to be perfectly right in his conjecture.

Blake had no sooner obtained his liberty than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which the two brothers, Brightwell, were tried. The foot-pad robberies and burglaries they committed were very numerous ; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account.

At the Old Bailey sessions, in October, 1724, Joseph Blake otherwise Blueskin, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, value 36*l.* and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar-window were cut, and that the cellar-door, which had been bolted and padlocked, was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake’s lodgings, with two other persons ; but Blake refusing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild’s men.

On this Blake drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first man that entered ; in answer to which Arnold said, “ Then I am the first man, ” and Mr. Wild is not far behind, and if you “ dont deliver your penknife immediately, I “ will chop your arm off.” Hereupon the prisoner dropped the knife ; and Wild entering, he was taken into custody.

As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor, on which Wild said to the prisoner, “ There’s “ the ken,” and the latter replied, “ Say no “ more of that Mr. Wild, for I know I am a “ dead man ; but what I fear is that I shall after-
“ wards .

“wards be carried to Surgeon’s hall, and anatomized: to which Wild replied, “No, I’ll take care to prevent that, for I’ll give you a coffin.”

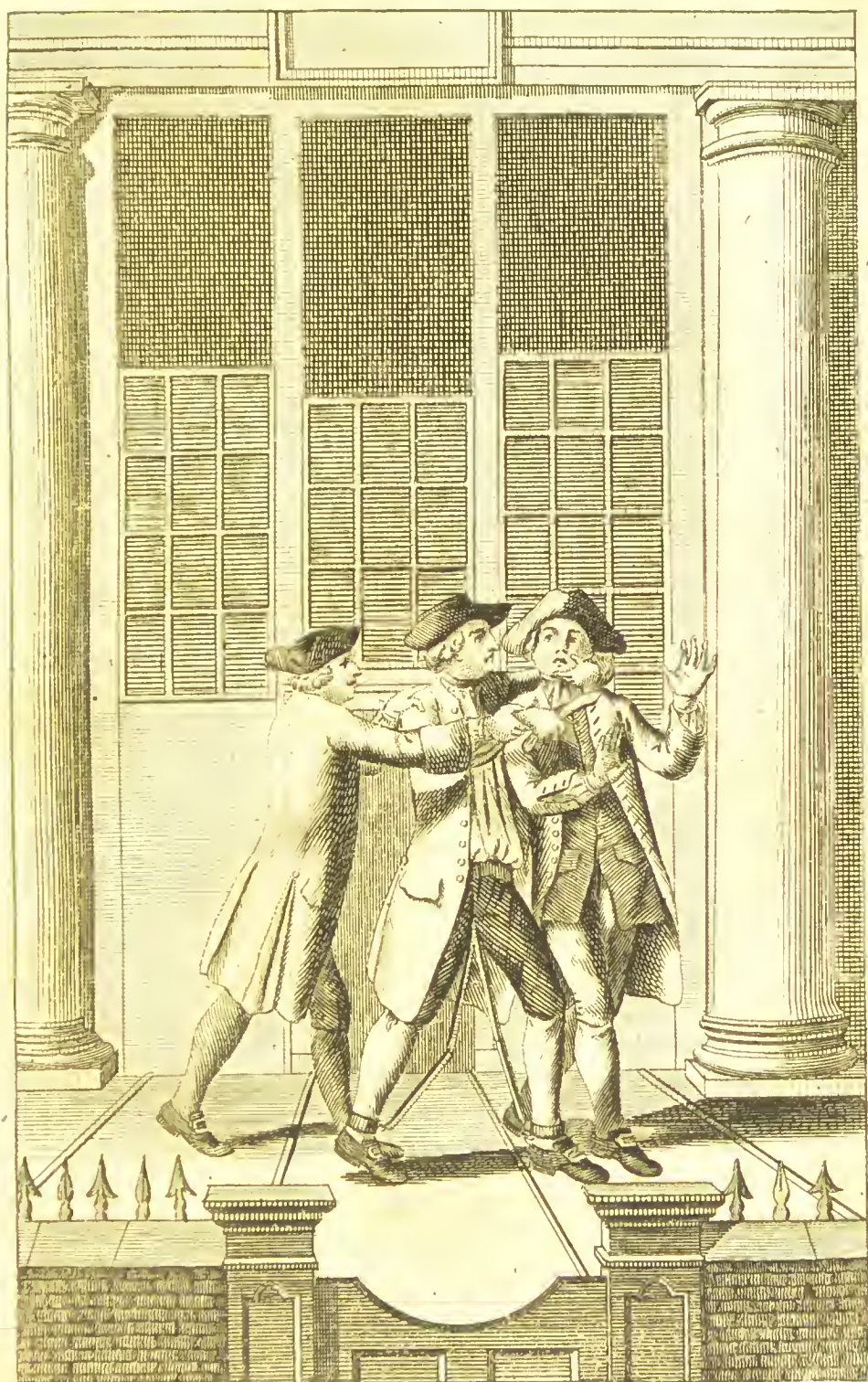
William Field, who was evidence on the trial, swore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himself: and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

As soon as the verdict was given Blake addressed the court in the following terms: “On Wednesday morning last Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs*, I believe you will not bring 40l. this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; but I’ll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon. And then turning to me, he said, ‘I believe you must die—I’ll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomized.’”

Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but going to visit him in the bail-dock, previous to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped penknife, with which he cut Jonathan’s throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal; and we shall see that Jonathan was preserved for a different fate.

While under sentence of death, Blake did not shew a concern proportioned to his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence on Wild, he said No, but that a sudden thought entered his mind, or he would have provided a knife, which would have cut off his head at once.

* Jacobs was then a prisoner, and afterwards transported.



*Blake, alias Blueskin attempting to cut the Throat of John
than Mudd, on the leads before the old Sessions house.*

On the nearer approach of death he appeared still less concerned, and it was thought that his mind was chiefly bent on meditating means of escaping; but seeing no prospect of getting away, he took to drinking, which he continued even to the day of his death; for he was observed to be intoxicated even while he was under the gallows.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of November, 1723.

This malefactor appears to have been a thief almost from his cradle: his habits of vice increased with his growing years, till at length he died, in the most ignominious manner, a victim to the violated laws of his country. Examples have generally more weight than precepts, from that of Blake, who became vicious at so early a period, notwithstanding the care his parents took to give him good education, young people should learn the duty of gratitude to those parents who are kind and thoughtful enough to lay the foundation of their future happiness by proper instructions in their youth.

The advantages of early piety likewise become conspicuous from the fate of those who neglect religion in the early part of life.

Happy the child whose younger years
Receive instructions well;
Who hates the sinner's path, and fears
The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,
'Tis pleasing in his eyes;
A flow'r when offer'd in the bud,
Is no vain sacrifice,

'Tis

'Tis easier work, if we begin
 To fear the Lord betimes ;
 While finners, that grow old in sin,
 Are hardened in their crimes.

Narrative of the Life, Trial, and Execution of
 JOHN SHEPPARD, who was hanged for Bur-
 glary.

THE case of this malefactor having been more the subject of public conversation than that of almost any one who ever underwent the sentence of the law, and his adventures being in themselves very remarkable, we shall be the more particular in our account of him.

John Sheppard was born in Spital-fields in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man ; yet he had another son named Thomas, who, as well as Jack turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate-street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a cane-chairmaker in Houndsditch. His master dying when he had been only a short time with him, he was placed with another person of the same trade : but here he was so ill-treated that he remained only a short time, when he was taken into the protection of Mr. Kneebone, a whoollen-draper in the strand, who had some knowledge of his father. At length Mr. Kneebone put him apprentice to a carpenter in Wych-street.

He

He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when frequenting the Black Lion alehouse in Drury-Lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence house-breaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bain's, a piece-broker in White Horse Yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of tustian from thence, (which he deposited in his trunk) went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of twenty-two pounds which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connections, and searching his trunk, found the piece of tustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the tustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and missing such a piece of tustian as had been described to him, suspected that

Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal alledging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he continued some time longer in the family; but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May-Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of cloaths.

Not long after this Edgworth Bess was apprehended, and lodged in the Round-house of the parish of St. Giles's, where Sheppard went to visit her, and the beadle refusing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the
Old

Old Bailey, for two petty offenders, and being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to lend him forty shillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first fact they committed in concert was the robbing a public-house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money, and wearing apparel: but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs. Cook, a linen draper in Chancery-market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and in less than a fortnight afterwards stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillip's in Drury-lane.

Tom Sheppard going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess, but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sikes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's Round-house: but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester-fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but failing in the at-

tempt, the gentleman called out "A pick-pocket," on which Sheppard was taken, and lodged in St. Anne's Round-house, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate, and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New-Prison; and as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate-Ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and sheet together, and making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower orders of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alledging as a reason for this request, that the girl he kept was so extravagant, that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make
this

this new connection ; but at the same time said that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument maker near St. Clement's church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master, and at two o'clock in the morning Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They left the door open, and Lamb went to bed, to prevent suspicion : but notwithstanding this, his master did suspect him, and having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, and being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

On the same day Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mary Cook, and stealing her goods, and being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villainy ; and if this were the case Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage ; for in October. 1721, he was tried on four indictments for felony and burglary, and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise an evidence against one of his associates on another occasion.

Shep-

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles, and being capitally convicted, received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe, that Sheppard and Blueskin having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouse, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild, in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe that in the old goal of Newgate there was, within the lodge, a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off.

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike, and thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public-house in Spitalfields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Clare-market, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden in Northampshire, where Page had some relations: and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey: but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet-street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attending: having passed the shop they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of laying there concealed till the diligence of the goal-keepers should relax: but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as it was thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape.

He

He was put into a strong room called the Castle, hand-cuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public having been greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce any one left him without making him a present in money; though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chissel; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Notwithstanding this disadvantageous situation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to visit him; and therefore the present juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and in his own account of this transaction, he says, "that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his hand-cuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain



Jack Sheppard. *in the Room Called the Castle, in Newgate.*



chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron-bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six foot from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch square and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach as to enable him to get into the Red-room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this Red-room had been opened: but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side: but making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock; and night now coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked: however, he wrenched the fillet from

the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was, how he should descend with the greatest safety; accordingly he found that the most convenient place for him to alight on would be the Turner's house adjoining to Newgate: but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to such a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the castle; and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket, to ease his descent; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone: wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel; and sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noise is that?" and a man answered, "perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours: after which he crept down once more as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking his leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned he resolved to venture at all hazards; but in stealing down the stairs he stumbled against a chamber-door; but

but instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the watch-house of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchman good-morrow, and going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's-Inn-Lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham-Court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of day-light, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields: and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, "have given his right hand for a hammer, a chissel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's shop in Tottenham-court-road, where he got a supply of bread cheese, small beer, and some other necessaries, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil; on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cow-house coming

thither, and seeing his irons, said, "For God's sake who are you?" Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who having had a bastard child sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, he had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said if that was all it did not much signify, but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing-cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house of little trade, in Rupert-street, and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a croud of people were surrounding two ballad-singers

fingers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport-market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Black-friars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer, and the Ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury-lane, where he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects to a considerable amount. Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury-lane and Clare-market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tye-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch; though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate-street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-house in May-pole Alley, Clare-market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees, and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from alehouses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an alehouse-boy who knew him.

him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had two pistols then in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any nobleman came to see him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel, but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a per-knife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himself out of the cart, among the crowd, to have run through

through the narrow passage, where the sheriffs officers could not follow on horseback; and he had no doubt but he should make his escape, by the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible but that this scheme might have succeeded; but before Sheppard left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife and was cut with it, so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation, even after execution; for he desired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down; and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1724, in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long-acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the church-yard of St. Martin in the Fields.

It is astonishing to think how much Sheppard and his adventures engaged the attention of the public. For a considerable time there was scarcely a subject of conversation but himself. There were several different histories of his life; and a variety of prints were worked off, representing his escapes from the condemned hold, and from the castle in Newgate; and there were likewise several other prints of his person; the best of which was a mezzotinto, done from an original painting of Sir James Thornhill, which gave rise to the following ingenious lines.

Thornhill,

Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
 Th' obscure, and raise the humble name;
 To make the form elude the grave,
 And Sheppard from oblivion save.

Tho' life in vain the wretch implores,
 An exile on the farthest shores,
 Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
 And bids the dying robber live.

This piece to latest time shall stand,
 And shew the wonders of thy hand.
 Thus former masters grac'd their name,
 And gave egregious robbers fame.]]

Appelles, Alexander drew,
 Cæsar is to Aurellius due,
 Cromwell in Lely's works doth shine,
 And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine.

It was even thought proper to represent Sheppard's actions on the stage. A pantomime entertainment was contrived, in which the scenes were painted from the places of action. It bore the name of "Harlequin Sheppard; a night scene in "grotesque characters," and was represented at the Theatre Royal in Drury-lane.

Another piece was printed, but never acted at the Theatres. It was a farce of three acts, called "The Prison Breaker; or the Adventures of John Sheppard." After being neglected some time a number of songs and catches were intermixed with it; and having received the name of "The Quaker's Opera," it was exhibited at Bartholomew-Fair.

Sheppard's adventures were not thought unworthy the notice even of the pulpit. The following

lowing is given as the conclusion of a sermon preached soon after his second escape from Newgate.

——“Now, my beloved, what a melancholy
 “consideration it is, that men should shew so
 “much regard for the preservation of a poor
 “perishing body, that can remain at most but a
 “few years; and at the same time be so unac-
 “countably negligent of a precious soul, which
 “must continue to the age of eternity! O what
 “care! what pains! what diligence! and what
 “contrivances are made use of for, and laid out
 “upon, these frail and tottering tabernacles of
 “clay: when alas! the nobler part of us is al-
 “lowed so very small a share of our concern,
 “that we scarce will give ourselves the trouble
 “of bestowing a thought upon it.

“We have a remarkable instance of this, in a
 “notorious malefactor, well known by the name
 “of Jack Sheppard! what amazing difficulties
 “has he overcome, what astonishing things has
 “he performed, for the sake of a stinking mi-
 “serable carcase, hardly worth hanging? how
 “dexterously did he pick the padlock of his
 “chain with a crooked nail? how manfully did
 “he burst his fetters asunder, climb up the chim-
 “ney, wrench out an iron bar, break his way
 “through a stone wall, and make the strong
 “doors of a dark entry fly before him, till he
 “got upon the leads of the prison? and then,
 “fixing a blanket to the wall with a spike he
 “stole out of the chapel, how intrepidly did he
 “descend to the top of the Turner’s house, and
 “how cautiously pass down the stairs, and make
 “his escape at the street-door!

“ O that ye were all like Jack Sheppard !—
 “ Mistake me not, my brethren, I don’t mean in
 “ a carnal, but in a spiritual sense, for I purpose
 “ to spiritualize these things.——What a shame
 “ it would be if we should not think it worth our
 “ while to take as much pains, and employ as
 “ many deep thoughts to save our souls, as he
 “ has done to preserve his body !

“ Let me exhort ye then to open the *locks* of
 “ your *hearts* with the *nail* of *repentance* ; burst
 “ asunder the *fetters* of your *beloved lusts* ; mount
 “ the *chimney* of *hope*, take from hence the *bar* of
 “ *good resolution*, break through the *stone wall* of
 “ *despair*, and all the *strong holds* in the *dark entry*
 “ of the *valley of the shadow of death* : Raise your-
 “ selves to the *leads* of *divine meditation* : Fix the
 “ *blanket* of *Faith* with the *spike* of the *church*. Let
 “ yourselves down to the *Turner’s house* of *resigna-*
 “ *tion*, and descend the *stairs* of *humility* : So shall
 “ you come to the *door* of *deliverance* from the *pri-*
 “ *son of iniquity*, and *escape* the clutches of that
 “ old *executioner* the *devil*, who goeth about like
 “ a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

After the long account we have given of this malefactor, it will be the less necessary to extend our remarks on his character. This history tells us how much more labour it requires to be a thief than an honest man. Indeed, if young people would but reflect for a moment, they would see that the practice of vice is, and must be, attended with the utmost pain and anxiety ; and that
 “ Wisdom’s ways are pleasantness, and all her
 “ paths are peace.” They must also be convinced that vice, by repetition becomes at least so habitual, that notwithstanding the attending evils, we can seldom or ever leave it off.

Narrative of the Lives and Execution of THOMAS PACKER, and JOSEPH PICKEN, who were hanged at Tyburn for Robbery.

THOMAS PACKER was a native of London, his father being a shoemaker in Butcherhall-lane, Newgate-street. He was bound apprentice to the master of the Ship-Tavern at Greenwich; but not being content in his situation, he was turned over to a vintner, who kept the Rummer-Tavern, near Red-lion-square; and having served the rest of his time, he lived as a waiter in different places.

He had not been long out of his time before he married; but the expences of his new connection, added to those arising from the extravagance of his disposition, soon reduced him to circumstances of distress.

JOSEPH PICKEN was likewise a native of London, being the son of a taylor in Clerkenwell; but his father dying while he was an infant, he was educated by his mother, who placed him with a vintner near Billingsgate, with whom he served an apprenticeship, after which he married, and kept the tap of the Mermaid Inn at Windsor: but his wife being a bad manager, and his business being much neglected, he was soon reduced to the utmost extremity of poverty.

Being obliged even to sell his bed, and sleep on the floor, his wife advised him to go on the highway, to supply their necessities. Fatally for him, he listened to her advice, and repaired to London, where, on the following day, he fell into company with Packer, who had been an old acquaintance.

The poverty of these unhappy men tempted them to make a speedy resolution of committing depredations on the public; in consequence of

which they hired horses as to go to Windsor; but instead thereof they rode towards Finchley, and, in a road between Highgate and Hornsey, they robbed two farmers, whom they compelled to dismount, and turned their horses loose.

Hastening to London with their ill-gotten booty, they went to a public-house in Monmouth-street, where one of them taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, accidentally drew out his pistol with it, which being remarked by a person in company, he procured a peace-officer, who took them into custody on suspicion.

Having been lodged in the Round-house for that night, they were taken before a magistrate on the following day; and being separately examined, disagreed much in their tale; and the parties who had been robbed attending, and swearing to their persons, they were committed for trial.

When they were brought to the bar they endeavoured to prove that they were absent from the spot at the time that the robbery was committed; but failing in this, a verdict of guilty was given against them, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction they behaved with every sign of contrition. Picken was in a very bad state of health almost the whole time he lay under sentence of death; and complained much of the ingratitude of his wife, who first advised him to the commission of the crime, yet never visited him during his miserable confinement in Newgate. These unhappy men prepared to meet their fate with decent resignation, and received the sacrament with every sign of genuine devotion.

They were executed at Tyburn on the 1st of February, 1725, but were so shocked at the idea
of

of their approaching dissolution, that they trembled with the dreadful apprehension, and were unable to give that advice to the surrounding multitude, which, however, might be easily implied from their pitiable condition.

It does not appear, from any account transmitted to us, that these men had been guilty of any robbery but the single one for which they suffered.

Hence we may learn how very short is the date of vice! It may be urged that the extremity of their poverty was a temptation to the commission of the crime; but let it be remembered that a state of the most abject poverty is preferable to the life of a thief. An honest man, be he ever so poor, need not blush to look the first man in the kingdom in the face.

The man who does unto others as he would they should do unto him, will enjoy the approbation of his own conscience; and may consider himself as equal in character to the greatest monarch in the universe.

The Transactions, Trial, and Execution of
VINCENT DAVIS, who was hanged at Tyburn
for the Murder of his Wife.

THIS malefactor, who followed the trade of a butcher in Smithfield, behaved with cruelty to his wife, and, though he had been married some years, accustomed himself to keep company with women of ill fame.

Going out one Sunday morning he staid till noon; and coming home to dinner went out again soon afterwards, and was directly followed by his wife, who found him drinking with some bad women at a house in Pye-corner; and coming home, mentioned this circumstance to her neighbours.

Soon

Soon afterwards the husband returned; and using some threatening expressions, the wife desired a lodger in the same house to go down stairs with her, lest he should beat her. The woman accordingly attended her, and was witness to Davis's beating her in a barbarous manner, and threatening to murder her because she had interrupted him while in the company of the other women. Hereupon the wife ran away, and sequestered herself for a time; but returning to her lodgings, begged admission into her landlady's room, who hid her behind the bed.

In the interim the husband had been out: but returning, went to bed, and when his wife thought he was asleep, she went into the room to search his pockets, in which she found only a few halfpence, and coming down stairs said that her husband had laid a knife by the bed side, from which she concluded that he had an intention of murdering her.

Mrs. Davis being concealed during the night, the landlady went into her husband's room in the morning, and said, "What do you mean by threatening to commit murder in my house?" On this he snatched up his knife, and the landlady having taken hold of a small cane, he took it from her, saying he valued it as his life; as he kept it to beat his wife with.

In the evening of this day the wife and landlady finding him at the before mentioned house in Pye-Corner, he beat his wife most severely; on which the landlady advised Mrs. Davis to swear the peace against him, and have him imprisoned, as she had done on a former similar occasion. About an hour after this he went home, and said to his wife, "What business have you here, or any
" where

“ where in my company?—You shall follow me
 “ no more; for I am married to little Jenny.”

The wife who seems to have had more love for him than such a miscreant deserved, said she could not help it, but she would drink with him and be friends; and, on his taking his supper to an ale-house, she followed him; but soon returned with her hand bloody, saying he had cut her fingers.

On his return he directed his wife to light him to his room, which she did, and earnestly entreated him to be reconciled to her; but instead of making any kind of reply, he drew his knife, and following her into the landlady's room, he there stabbed her in the breast.

Thus wounded, the poor wretch ran down stairs, and was followed by the murderer. She was sheltered in a neighbouring house, where sitting down, and pulling off her stomacher, she bled to death in about half an hour.

In the interim the landlady called the watchmen, who soon apprehended Davis, and conducted him to the house where the dead woman lay; on which he said, “ Betty, won't you speak to
 “ me?” A woman who was present said, “ You
 “ will find to your sorrow, that she will never
 “ speak more;” and to this the murderer replied,
 “ Well, I know I shall be hanged; and I would
 “ as soon suffer for her as another.”

Being committed to the care of a peace-officer, he was conveyed to prison, in his way to which he said “ I have killed the best wife in the world,
 “ and I am certain of being hanged; but for
 “ God's sake don't let me be anatomized.”

When he was brought to his trial, the above recited facts were proved by the testimony of several witnesses; and on the jury pronouncing the
 verdict

verdict of guilty, he execrated the court with the most profane imprecations.

While he lay under sentence of death he affected a false bravery, but when orders were given for his execution, his assumed courage left him, and he appeared greatly terrified at his approaching fate. He had such a dread of falling into the hands of the surgeons, that he sent letters to several of his acquaintance, begging they would rescue his body, if any attempt should be made to take it away.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 30th of April, 1725, behaving in the most gloomy and reserved manner at the place of execution.

The anxiety this miserable wretch expressed for the care of his body after having perpetrated such an unprovoked murder as he might well suppose would hazard the salvation of his soul, affords a melancholy picture how much concerned we can be for smaller matters, to the neglect of the more important. It should teach us how superior the value of the soul is, to that of a poor frail carcass; since the former must exist to all eternity, while the latter, in a few years at the most, will moulder into dust.

It would be needless to expatiate on the character of this inhumane man, whose depraved nature must make all good people lament, that so much cruelty and vice should ever had existence in a Christian land.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



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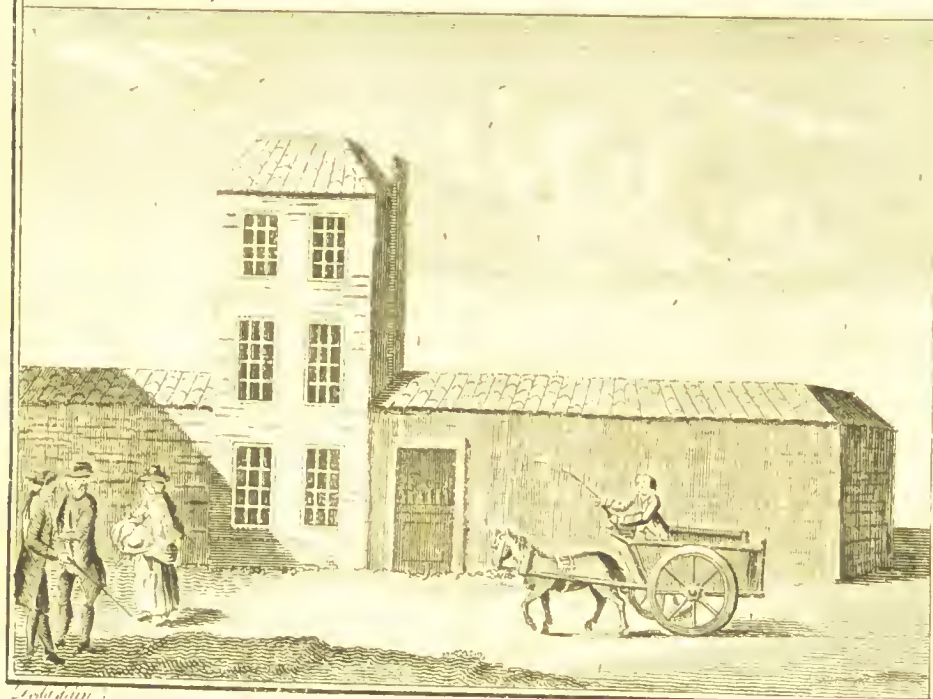
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T H E
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR:

O R,
MALEFACTOR'S BLOODY REGISTER.

Narrative of the Parentage, Trial, and Execution of the notorious LEWIS HOUSSART, who was hanged at Swan Alley, Shoreditch for Murder.

THIS malefactor was born at Sedan in France; but his parents being Protestants, quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Lewis the fourteenth, and settled in Dutch Brabant.

Young Houffart's father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted through want of health, and came to England.

He had been a considerable time in this country when he became acquainted with Anne Rondeau, whom he married at the French Church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her in disgust, and going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser; and getting acquainted with a Mrs. Hern of Princes-street,

4 NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

Lothbury, he married her at St. Antholin's church.

No sooner was the ceremony performed, than the company went to drink some wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish clerk observed that Houffart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented his bargain; to which he answered in the negative.

It appears as if, even at this time, he had come to a resolution of murdering his first wife; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connection, he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced, in a short time, that he had no other wife but herself.

During this interval his first wife lived with her mother in Swan-Alley, Shoreditch, and Mrs. Houffart being in an ill state of health, her husband called on her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her he would bring her something to relieve her; and the next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours; but at length she recovered.

This scheme failing, Houffart determined to murder her, to effect which, and conceal the crime, he took the following method.

Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head in Bishopsgate-street, she went thither and waited for him. In the mean time he dressed himself in a white great coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan-Alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife, and her mother,
Mrs.



LEWIS HOUSSART about cutting his WIFE'S THROAT
with a Razor, near Shoreditch.

Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black Dog in Bishopsgate street.

Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman, Houffart hid himself in the alley till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room, and cut her throat with a razor, and, thus murdered, she was found by her mother on her return from the Black-Dog, after enquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her.

In the interim Houffart went to his other wife at the Turk's Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprize at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her husband should return, and find him so meanly dressed: and soon after this Houffart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau having found her daughter murdered, as above-mentioned, went to her son, to whom she communicated the affair: and he having heard that Houffart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime.

Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, but acquitted, for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards: but the court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate to take his trial for bigamy.

In consequence hereof he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of
both

both his marriages; but an objection was made by his council, on a point of law, "Whether he
 " could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage
 " was performed by a French minister, and he
 " was only once married according to the form
 " of the church of England." On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houffart lay in Newgate, awaiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had hitherto kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he should be apprehended. The mother told him he would be only sworn to tell the truth: "Why (said he)
 " I thought they would hang him:" but the mother satisfying him that there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed that he was the boy who went with the message.

Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of peace, and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Houffart as the person who had employed him in the manner above mentioned.

In consequence hereof Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but it appearing that there was some bad Latin in it, no proceedings could be had thereon; and therefore another appeal was lodged the next sessions, when the prisoner urging that he was not prepared for his trial, he was yet indulged till a subsequent sessions.

The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the
 names

names of John Doe and Richard Roe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the council for the prisoner stated the following pleas, in bar to, and abatement of, the proceedings.

I. That besides the appeal, to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and undetermined.

II. A misnomer, because his name was not Lewis, but Louis.

III. That the addition of labourer was wrong, for he was not a labourer, but a barber-surgeon.

IV. That there were no such persons as John Doe, and Richard Roe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal.

V. That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the deceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and therefore was not the proper appellant; and

VI. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The council for the appellant replied to these several pleas in substance as follows:

To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined.

To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy, and the other for murder; and his hand-writing was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name.

To

To the third, it was urged that, on the two former indictments, he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore that the prisoner worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master.

To the fourth it was urged that there were two such persons in Middlesex as John Doe and Richard Roe, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier; and this fact was sworn to.

In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau, the appellant: that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife.

With regard to the last article, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury.

Hereupon the trial was brought on, and the same witnesses being examined as on the former trial, to which that of the boy was added, the jury determined that the prisoner was guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

His behaviour after conviction was very improper for one in his melancholy situation; and, as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more thoughtless, and more hardened, and frequently declared that he would cut his own throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife.

His behaviour at the place of execution was equally hardened. He refused to pray with the Ordinary of Newgate, and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions.

This

This malefactor suffered on the 7th of December, 1724, opposite the end of Swan-Alley, in Shoreditch.

We see in the case of this man the artful methods made use of by lawyers to screen the guilty from the just punishment due to the atrociousness of their crimes. There could be no doubt but that Houssart was a murderer; yet pleas were urged, that he ought not to be convicted, on account of a trifling misspelling of his name, and other such ridiculous circumstances.

We cannot but wish, for the honour of the laws of England, that we had fewer lawyers, and that more of those of the profession would conduct themselves as they ought; as men, and as Christians. It is a disgrace to the honourable character of a counsellor, that so many of that name may be found, who, in the common phrase will endeavour to prove that black is white; and that the prevailing argument of a few additional guineas will induce them to wrest the laws, to the frequent punishment of innocence, and the triumph of guilt. But it is in vain to declaim on this subject; since men who can be base enough to take the paltry bribe from the highest bidder, will not be convinced of the impropriety of their conduct by any arguments we can use.

The crime of the malefactor in question is of the first magnitude:—the murder was of the most unprovoked kind; and we see by the agitations of his mind, immediately after the second marriage, that the intentional murderer himself was wretched. So must every one be whose heart is corrupt enough wilfully to depart from the laws of God, and violate all the sacred rights of humanity.

Destruction, anguish, and remorse must ever be the consequence of determined villainy. Well might the psalmist exclaim, "The workers of iniquity are fallen; they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise."

Particulars respecting ROBERT HARPAM, who was hanged at Tyburn for Coining.

THIS offender lived in Westminster, where he carried on the business of a carpenter for a considerable time with some success; but at length had the misfortune to become a bankrupt, after which he appears to have turned his thoughts to a very dishonest way of acquiring money.

Having engaged the assistance of one Fordham, he hired a house near St. Paul's Church-yard, and pretending to be a button-maker, he put up an iron press, with which he used to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made.

From hence they removed to Rosemary-lane, and there carried on the same dangerous business for some time, till the neighbours observing that great quantities of charcoal were brought in, and the utmost precaution taken to keep the door shut, began to form very unfavourable suspicions: on which Harpham took a cellar, in Paradise-row, near Hanover-square, to which the implements were removed.

While in this situation Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him; and was imprudent enough to take him into his workshop, and shew him his tools. The gentleman wondering for what purpose they could be intended, Harpham said,

said, “ In this press I can make buttons ; but I
 “ will shew you something else that is a greater
 “ rarity.” Having said this, he struck a piece
 of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of
 a half guinea, except the milling on the edge ;
 but another instrument being applied to it, the
 half guinea was completed.

Our coiners now removed to Jermyn-street, St. James’s, where Harpham took an empty cellar, and, on the old pretence of button-making, gave orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the grate would consume, the other said it was so much the better, for it was calculated to dress victuals either by baking, stewing, roasting, or boiling. Harpham kept the key of this cellar, permitting no one to enter but Fordham ; and once in three weeks he had a quantity of charcoal and sea-coal put in through the window.

The landlord of the place suspecting some illegal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch the parties ; in consequence of which Harpham was soon discovered in the attempt to put off counterfeit money ; on which he and his assistant were apprehended and committed to Newgate ; and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the other was convicted, and received sentence of death.

His behaviour immediately after his commitment, was unusually serious ; for as he was not weak enough to flatter himself with unreasonable hopes of life, so he began to make an early preparation for the important change that awaited him. He procured religious books, and exercised himself in the offices of devotion, in a very earnest manner. He likewise resolved to eat no more food than should be absolutely necessary for

the support of nature; and in this he persevered from the time of his conviction to the day of his death. He desired a person to awake him at three o'clock in the morning, and continued his devotions till midnight.

While he was thus properly employed, a person hinted to him that he might entertain some hope of a reprieve; but he said he did not regard a reprieve, on his own account; for that slavery, in a foreign country, was as much to be dreaded as death. Some questions being asked him respecting any accomplices he might have, he declined charging any particular person with a crime, but gave the Ordinary of Newgate a list of the names of some people whom he desired him to send to, requesting that they would reform the error of their ways,

The sacrament was administered to him in private on the day before his execution, at his own request, as he said he could not attend the duties of religion, while exposed to the observation of a curious multitude.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 24th of May, 1725, after exhorting the persons present to beware of covetousness, and be content in the station allotted them by Providence.

To the particulars above-recited little need be added by way of remark or instruction. The man who is wicked and foolish enough to be guilty of coining, should consider that he is deliberately taking away his own life, in the very act of robbing the poor: for counterfeit money, though it pass for a while among persons who have considerable sums to pay away, will ultimately remain in the hands of some mechanic or labourer, who has perhaps not another piece in the world but the base metal which he has taken.

Let

JONATHAN WILD—for various Offences. 13

Let us figure to ourselves, for a moment, the distress that such a person must endure; aggravated, possibly, by the hungry calls of a wife and numerous family; and then let any man lay his hand on his heart, and ask himself, how few crimes there can be more atrocious than that of coining!

Narrative of the Character, Life, and Trial of the notorious JONATHAN WILD; including genuine Memoirs of his numerous Accomplices, and their several Contrivances.

WOOLVERHAMPTON in Staffordshire gave birth to Jonathan Wild about the year 1682. He was the eldest son of his parents, who at a proper age put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he had gained a sufficient knowledge in reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business. His father intended to bring him up to his own trade; but changed that design, and at about the age of fifteen apprenticed him for seven years to a buckle-maker in Birmingham. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he returned to Wolverhampton, where he married a young woman of good character, and gained a tolerable livelihood by following his business as a journeyman.

He had been married about two years, in which time his wife had bore to him a son, when he formed the resolution of visiting London, and very soon after deserted his wife and child, and set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and maintained himself by his trade. Being of an extravagant disposition, many months had not elapsed after his arrival in London, when he

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he was arrested and thrown into Wood-street Compter, where he remained a prisoner for debt upwards four years. In a pamphlet which he published, and which we shall more particularly mention hereafter, he says, that during his imprisonment "it was impossible but he must in some measure be let into the secrets of the criminals there under confinement; and particularly Mr. Hitchen's management."

During his residence in the Compter, Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals who were his fellow-prisoners, and attended to their accounts of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction. In this prison was a woman named Mary Milliner, who had long been considered as one of the most notorious pickpockets and abandoned prostitutes on the town. After having escaped the punishment due to the variety of felonies of which she had been guilty she was put under confinement for debt. A strict intimacy was contracted between Wild and this woman; but whether a criminal intercourse subsisted between them while they remained in the Compter we cannot affirm; but, considering the character of the parties, there will appear but little reason to suppose they adhered to the rules of chastity. They had no sooner obtained their freedom than they lived under the denomination of man and wife. By their iniquitous practices they soon obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public-house in Cock-Alley, facing Cripplegate Church.

Milliner being personally acquainted with most of the notorious characters by whom London and its environs were infested, and perfectly conversant as to the manner of their proceedings, she was considered by Wild as a most useful companion;

panion; and indeed she very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished characters in the arts of villainy.

Wild industriously penetrated into the secrets of felons of every denomination, who resorted in great numbers to his house, in order to dispose of their booties; and they looked upon him with a kind of awe; for, being acquainted with their proceedings, they were conscious that their lives were continually in his power.

Wild was at little difficulty to dispose of the articles brought to him by thieves, at something less than the real value; for at this period no law existed for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods: but the evil encreasing to so enormous a degree, it was deemed expedient by the legislature to frame a law for its suppression. An act therefore was passed consigning such as should be convicted of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen, to transportation for the space of fourteen years.

Wild's practices were considerably interrupted by the above-mentioned law; to obviate the intention of which, however, he suggested the following plan: he called a meeting of all the thieves whom he knew, and observed to them, that if they carried their booties to such of the pawnbrokers who were known to be not much troubled with scruples of conscience, they would scarcely advance on the property one fourth of its real value; and that if they were offered to strangers either for sale, or by way of deposit, it was a chance of ten to one but the parties were rendered amenable to the laws. He observed that the most industrious thieves were now scarcely able to obtain a livelihood; and that they must either submit to be half-starved, or be in great
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and continual danger of Pyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which they laboured, recommending them to follow his advice, and to behave towards him with honor. He then proposed that when they had gained any booty they should deliver it to him, instead of carrying it to the pawnbroker, saying he would restore the goods to the owners, by which means greater sums would be raised than by depositing them with the pawnbrokers, while the thieves would be perfectly secure from detection.

This proposal was received with general approbation, and it was resolved to carry it into immediate execution. All the stolen effects were to be given into the possession of Wild, who soon appointed convenient places wherein they were to be deposited, judging that it would be imprudence to have them left at his own house.

The infamous plan being thus concerted, it was the business of Wild to apply to persons who had been robbed, pretending to be greatly concerned at their misfortunes, saying that some suspected property had been stopped by a very honest man, a broker, with whom he was acquainted, and that if their goods happened to be in the hands of his friend, restitution should be made. But he failed not to plead that the broker might be rewarded for his trouble and disinterestedness, and to use every argument in his power for exacting a promise that no disagreeable consequences should ensue to his friend, who had imprudently neglected to apprehend the supposed thieves.

Happy in the prospect of regaining their property without the trouble and expence necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally approved the conduct of Wild, and sometimes rewarded him

him even with one half of the real value of the goods restored. Persons who had been robbed, however, were not always satisfied with Wild's declaration; and sometimes they questioned him particularly as to the manner of their goods being discovered. On these occasions he pretended to be offended that his honor should be disputed, saying that his motive was to afford all the service in his power to the injured party, whose goods he imagined might possibly be those stopped by his friend; but since his good intentions were received in so ungracious a manner, and himself interrogated respecting the robbers, he had nothing further to say on the subject, but must take his leave; adding that his name was Jonathan Wild, and that he was every day to be found at his house in Cock-Alley, Cripplegate. This affectation of resentment seldom failed to possess the people who had been robbed with a more favourable opinion of his principles; and the suspicion of his character being removed, he had an opportunity of advancing his demands.

Wild received no gratuity from the owners of stolen goods, but deducted his profit from the money which was to be paid the broker: thus did he amass considerable sums without danger of prosecution; for his offences came under the description of no law then existing. For several years he preserved a tolerably fair character, so consummate was the art he employed in the management of all his schemes.

Wild's business greatly encreasing and his name becoming exceedingly popular, he altered his mode of proceeding. Instead of applying to persons who had been robbed, he opened an office, to which great numbers resorted in hopes of

recovering their effects. He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence that enabled him more effectually to impose on the public. When persons came to his office they were informed that they must each pay a crown in consideration of receiving his advice. This ceremony being dispatched, he entered in his book, the names and places of abode of the parties, with all the particulars which they could communicate respecting the robberies, and the rewards that would be given, provided the goods were recovered; and they were then desired to call again in a few days, when he hoped he should be able to give them some agreeable intelligence.

Upon calling to know the success of his enquiries, he informed them that he had received some information concerning their goods, but that the agent he had employed to trace them had informed him that the robbers pretended they could raise more money by pawning the property than by returning it for the proposed reward; saying, however, that if he could by any means procure an interview with the villains he doubted not of being able to settle matters agreeable to the terms already proposed; but, at the same time, artfully insinuating that the most safe, expeditious and prudent method would be to make some addition to the reward.

Wild at length, became eminent in his profession, which proved highly lucrative. When he had discovered the utmost sum that it was likely people would give for the recovery of their property, he requested them to call again, and in the mean time he caused the goods to be ready for delivery. He derived considerable advantages from examining persons who had been robbed; for he thence became acquainted with the particulars

culars which the thieves had omitted to communicate to him, and was enabled to detect them if they concealed any part of their booties. Being in possession of the secrets of all the notorious robbers, they were under the necessity of complying with whatever terms he thought proper to exact; for they were conscious that by opposing his inclination they should involve themselves in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed to the injured laws of their country.

Through the infamous practices of this man articles which had been before considered as of no use but to the owners, now became matters claiming a particular attention from the thieves by whom the metropolis and its environs were infested. Pocket-books, books of accounts, watches, rings, trinkets, and a variety of articles of but small intrinsic worth, were now esteemed very profitable booty. Books of accounts and other writings being of great importance to the owners, produced very handsome rewards; and the same may be said of pocket-books, for they generally contained memorandums, and sometimes bank-notes and other articles on which money could be readily procured.

Wild accumulated money so fast that he considered himself as a man of consequence, and to support his imaginary dignity he dressed in laced clothes, and wore a sword. He first exercised his martial instrument on the person of his accomplice and reputed wife, Mary Milliner. Having on some occasion provoked him, he, with an oath, declared he would "mark her for a bitch," and instantly drawing his sword struck at her, and cut off one of her ears. This event was the cause of a separation; but in acknowledgment of the great services she had rendered him, by introducing

roducing him to so lucrative a profession, he allowed a weekly stipend till her decease.

Before Wild had brought the plan of his office to perfection he for some time acted as an assistant to Charles Hitchen, the city-marshal. These celebrated co-partners in villainy, under the pretext of reforming the manners of the dissolute part of the public, paraded the streets from Temple-bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill-fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons: but such as complimented these *public* reformers with *private* douceurs were allowed to practice every species of wickedness with impunity. Hitchen and Wild, however, became jealous of each other, and an open rupture taking place, they parted each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account*.

In 1718 the marshal attacked Wild in a pamphlet, called, *The Regulator; or a Discovery of Thieves, Thief-takers, &c.* which was answered by his antagonist and from each of these curious performances we shall here introduce some extracts.

Abstract of the City Marshal's Account of JONATHAN WILD, &c.

‘IF these should hold their peace, the stones in the street would cry out of such abominable practices, as are committed and carried on in this city and places adjacent, by thieves and robbers, and—thief-takers.

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* In the year 1715 Wild removed from his house in Cock-Alley, to a Mrs. Seagoe's in the Old Bailey, where he pursued his business with the usual success notwithstanding the efforts of Hitchen (his rival in iniquity) to suppress his proceedings.

One thief-taker brought to justice, is more for the advantage of the city, than a hundred thieves; and in order thereto, I shall here take notice of only one of the aforesaid felonious practices, taking it for granted, that all the rest are of the same management; to wit, a gentlewoman, as she was passing along in the evening in a coach, on the South-side of St. Paul's Church-yard, was there, in a most audacious and barbarous manner, robbed to a considerable value, by three of the most notorious rogues, (William Matthews, Christopher Matthews, and Obediah Lemon, who agreed to make himself an evidence) that ever this kingdom was plagued with; which being discovered and sought after, in order to bring them to justice for so doing, the Thief-taker hearing of the same, and fearing that he might by this means lose three of the most profitable customers which belonged to his felonious shop, immediately summoned the three aforesaid offenders to a friendly conference, where it was unanimously agreed that the only way to save them, at this critical juncture, was, for one of them to make himself an evidence, &c. "Well then," saith the Thief-taker, "in order to blind the justice, and that he may take the information, is to induce him to believe that we are doing something for the good of the public: therefore, you must put into the information a numerous train of offenders which have been concerned with you, either in robberies, or buying, or receiving of your stolen goods; and at the same time you must be sure to promise him, the said justice, that you will convict them all: and, that there may be a perfect harmony between us, you shall hear me, your Counsellor, your Thief-taker, and Factor, pro-

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“ mise as faithfully that I will apprehend, take,
 “ and bring them to justice for the same. But,
 “ by the bye, I must give you this caution, to
 “ leave out the sixty dozen of handkerchiefs that
 “ were taken by Mr. Ridley, from a dyer’s ser-
 “ vant, whom they sent on a sham errand, for
 “ which handkerchiefs I received thirty guineas
 “ from the owner, but gave Oakley, Lemon, and
 “ Mr. Johnson but ten guineas. That you do
 “ not put such and such robberies into the infor-
 “ mation, because I was employed by the per-
 “ sons that you robbed, to get their goods again,
 “ and, they not bidding money enough for the
 “ same, they were not returned to the right
 “ owner. Therefore, you know such must be
 “ left out, otherwise I shall bring my own neck
 “ into the noose, and put it in the power of every
 “ little prig, as well as others, to pull the cord
 “ at their pleasure; and upon such terms, who
 “ the devil would be your factor?”

Let us now see what is the consequence of this
 skittish and felonious information; but deceiving
 the magistrate and letting the three aforesaid no-
 torious offenders escape the hand of justice, and
 hanging up a couple of sham sham thieves (Hugh
 Oakley and Henry Chickley) which he got little
 or nothing by, in their room: and likewise to
 give the Thief-taker an opportunity to rob or ex-
 tort a sum of money out of all the rest in the in-
 formation, by making up and compounding the
 felonies with them, which, by a modest compu-
 tation, cannot amount to less than a hundred
 pounds, or more, &c.

Then is it not high time for the citizens of
 London, and the places adjacent, to bestir them-
 selves, when the greatest offenders have found a
 way, with the assistance of their friend the Thief-
 taker,

taker, to escape the hand of justice; This will give them encouragement, and make them desperate, as well as frequent in their robberies, and, what the citizens and others must dearly pay for, if not timely prevented, by putting a stop to the same.

In short, the thief, the goal, the justice, and the king's evidence, all of them seem to be influenced and managed by him, and, at this rate, none will be brought to the gallows, but such as he thinks fit, &c.

Now, if enquiry were to be made, by what means he arrived to this pitch of preferment he is now at, you will find that he hath been a great proficient in all matters and things, that he hath hitherto engaged in.

I. Who, when in a private station, and followed the trade of buckle-making, knew how to plate a crown piece as well as any that followed that employment.

II. When he became an evidence, did the business skittishly, and as effectually, as any of those he now sets up.

III. When he was a twang, and followed the tail of his wife, Mary Milliner, a common night-walker, no sooner had she picked a pocket, and given him the signal by a hem! or otherwise, but he had impudence and courage enough to attack the cull, until the buttock had made her escape.

IV. When king of the gipsies, Jonathan Wild did execute the hidden and dark part of a stroller to all intents and purposes, until, in Holborn, by order of the justice, his *skittish* and *baboonish* majesty was set in the stocks for the same.

V. Now King among the thieves, and Lying-master-general of England, Captain-general of the

the army of plunderers, and Ambassador Extraordinary from the Prince of the Air, hath taken up his residence in an apartment fitted up on purpose for him in the Palace of the Queen of Hell, where continual attendance is given for receiving and buying stolen goods; as likewise, to *put them back* again, provided the right owners will offer money enough for the same; but if not, then doth his excellency fly off, and give you to understand, that the goods he hath heard of, are not yours, and that he cannot assist you, and that you may be gone about your business, for——he will take a sum of money of the thief, or dispose of the goods some other way. Certainly, such a monster of iniquity as this is not to be found in any part of the habitable world, save only in this kingdom, and this insatuated city, and places adjacent, those places of general corruption.

VI. There being one thing more, which he earnestly desires, and solicits to be employed in finding out, and setting up evidences against the false coiners, and, then you need not doubt but in a little time you will have as many coiners, as you have thieves. O! London! London! so much famed for thy good order; by what means is it now come to pass, that thou art become a receptacle for a den of thieves and robbers, and all sorts of villainous persons and practices?

It may be proper to examine a little into the trade of punishing wickedness and vice, the same being become one of the most mysterious, profitable, and flourishing trades now in the kingdom—and the open, but unwarrantable and pernicious practice of the regulator (Jonathan Wild.)

And, in order thereto, I shall here take a view of him in the public streets, which he so much boasteth of, and fain would persuade you, that he

he doth so much good to the public, by stopping the whores, and other persons viciously inclined, and forcibly entering the houses of bawdry, and taking them out from thence, and committing them to goals. And now pray, what's the consequence of all this? woeful experience plainly shews, that, by the ill-acquaintance, and conversation they meet with there, they learn to be thieves, and find the way to the Thief-takers houses, set up by them on purpose to harbour and train up one brood of thieves under another, and to screen and save them from the gallows, to the end that they may live by the reversion of them. And now it is the general complaint, that people are afraid, when it is dark, to come to their houses, for fear that their hats and wigs should be snatched from off their heads, or their swords taken from their sides, or, that they may be blinded, knocked down, cut or stabbed; nay, the coaches cannot secure them, but, they are likewise assaulted, cut and robbed in the public streets—And how can you suppose it to be otherwise, when there are so many public offices, public and private houses, public inns, and public shops, set up on purpose to harbour thieves and robbers, and carry on the basest designs with them?—

Particulars relative to JONATHAN WILD, and the City Marshal, abstracted from his new Account.

‘**W**HEN two of a profession are at variance, the world is let into many important discoveries; and, whether it be among thief-takers, lawyers, or clergymen an expectation, naturally arises of some Billingsgate treatment.—For the

satisfaction of the world in this particular, I shall, like a true cock of the game, answer Mr. Hitchen at his own weapons.—

—Says my old master in iniquity, “ One thief-taker brought to justice, is more for the advantage of the city, than a hundred thieves:” Not to justify the practice of thief-taking, I acquiesce with him in this, if the *oldest* offenders are to be *first* prosecuted; and then I’ll leave the world to judge,——Who will first deserve an exemplary punishment.

It appears from this that Jonathan was not the original thief-taker, but, that he borrowed some hints from the marshal, and afterwards improved them.

The information he mentioned, in respect to the setting up an evidence, is intirely groundless, the person accused being perfectly ignorant of it; and there are enough to prove the evidence voluntarily appeared before my lord-mayor: and, as for not returning of goods for want of a reward sufficient to the value, I shall shew what flagrant crimes the city marshal has been guilty of, of this nature.—

Jonathan does not here deny the charge of not returning the goods, and therefore we may venture to take it for fact.

Says this author.—“ He knew how to plate a crown-piece as well as any that followed that employment.” Now, if he could prove this assertion, or any thing like it, it is very rational to suppose, that he would bring the thief-taker to condign punishment, being his implacable enemy—

That setting up evidence against false coiners is the way to have as many coiners as thieves, is such a piece of nonsense, absurdity, and contradiction, that this is not to be paralleled.

And

And it is a notable piece of inconsistency to say, that taking whores out of bawdy houses, and sending them to workhouses, makes them thieves. By this way of arguing, the houses of correction, instead of deterring iniquity, increase thefts, and robberies, and the reformers of manners are the promoters of wickedness.—But it is no wonder that the marshal, throughout his treatise, expresses a great deal of uneasiness at the informers, for those persons very much lessen his interest in suppressing houses of lewdness, the keepers whereof have been generally pensioners to him.—I can produce persons who will make it appear, that several houses of ill-fame are supported by quarterly payments to him. Besides, there being frequently sums of money extorted from libertines for connivance at their lewdness, and sometimes from persons entirely innocent, and unacquainted with the character of those houses. And he has of late been so audacious, as to examine taverns of the best reputation, and insist upon yearly compositions from them, though the only payment he has met with, has been a salute with a crab-tree cudgel; and a decent toss in a blanket.

He has shewn such an excellence in the flash or cant dialect, that every body must allow him a master, and that experience only must have completed him. His dialogue demonstrates his great knowledge in the intrigues of pick-pockets, house-breakers, and highwaymen; and a man would swear by his apt description, that he had been an actor in all. The boys in the ken swearing and grinning like so many hell-cats, and the man in the silver-buttoned coat, and knotted wig, with a sword by his side, is an exact scene of a city-officer, and his company of pick-pockets at an alehouse between Moorfields and Islington,

where they used to rendezvous daily, the boys giving an account of their day's work, and the master dispensing further instructions.

I need not mention his being nearer the pillory than ever a certain person was to the stocks.— And, however a certain diminutive person may resemble a baboon, it is evident to all that know the gigantic city marshal, that he wants nothing but a cloven foot to personate, in all respects, his father Beelzebub.

There are many other particulars which I shall omit, and proceed to several matters of fact, to make appear, that (instead of a scoundrel author's being intirely free from all the evil practices he has treated of, he is guilty of the same crimes he pretends to fix upon others.

After the marshal's suspension in his office, and he was forbid attendance on the lord-mayor, he on a time applied himself to the buckle-maker near Cripplegate, in the following manner :

“ I am very sensible that you are let into the
 “ knowledge of the intrigues of the Compter, particularly with relation to the securiag of pocket-
 “ books : but your experience is inferior to mine ;
 “ I can put you in a far better method than you
 “ are acquainted with, and which may be done
 “ with safety ; for though I am suspended, I
 “ still retain the power of acting as constable,
 “ and, notwithstanding I cannot be heard before
 “ my lord-mayor as formerly, I have interest
 “ among the aldermen upon any complaint.

“ But I must first tell you that you spoil the
 “ trade of thief-taking, in advancing greater rewards than are necessary : I give but half-a-
 “ crown a book, and, when the thieves and
 “ pick-pockets see you and I confederate, they'll
 “ submit to our terms, and likewise continue their
 “ thefts

“ thefts for fear of coming to the gallows by our
 “ means.---You shall take a turn with me as my
 “ servant, or assistant, and we’ll commence our
 “ rambles this night.”

The night approaching, the marshal and the buckle-maker began their walk at Temple-bar, and called in at several brandy-shops, and ale-houses, between that and Fleet-ditch: some of the masters of these houses complimented the marshal with punch, others with brandy, and some presented him with fine ale, offering their service to their worthy protector.

The marshal made them little answer; but gave them to understand, all the service he expected from them was, to give him information of pocket-books, or any goods stolen, as a pay-back:
 “ For you women of the town,” (addressing himself to some females in one of the shops) “ make
 “ it a common practice to resign things of this
 “ nature to the bullies and rogues of your retirement;—but this shall no longer be borne with,
 “ I’ll give you my word both they and you shall
 “ be detected, unless you deliver all the pocket-books you meet with to me. What do you
 “ think I bought my place for, but to make the
 “ most of it? and you are to understand this is
 “ my man (pointing to the buckle-maker) to assist me. And if you at any time for the future
 “ refuse to yield up the watches and books you
 “ take, either to me, or my servant, you may be
 “ assured of being all sent to Bridewell, and not
 “ one of you shall be permitted to walk the streets.
 “ For, notwithstanding I am under a suspension,
 “ (the chief reason of which is, for not suppressing the practices of such vermin as you) I have
 “ still a power of punishing, and you shall dearly
 “ pay

“ pay for the least disobedience to what I have
“ commanded.”

Strutting along the streets a little farther, the marshal on a sudden seized two or three dexterous pick-pockets, reprimanding them for not paying their respects to their mighty chief; and withal, asking them to what parts of the town they were rambling, and whether they did not see him? to which they answered, that they saw him at a distance (he being big and remarkable enough to be known by them and their brethren) but he caught hold of them so hastily, that they had no time to address him. “ We have been strolling,” continued the pick-pockets, “ over Moorfields, “ and from thence to the Blue-Boar, in pursuit “ of you; but, not finding you as usual, we were “ under some fears that you were indisposed:” The marshal replied, he should have given them a meeting there, but had been employed the whole day with his new man. “ You are to be “ very careful,” said he, “ not to oblige any “ person but myself, or servant, with pocket- “ books: if you presume to do otherwise, you “ shall swing for it, and we are out in the city “ every night to observe your motions.” These instructions given, the pick-pockets left us, making their master a low congée, and promising obedience. This was the progress of the first night with the buckle-maker, whom he told, that his staff of authority terrified the ignorant to the extent of his wishes.

Some nights afterwards, walking towards the back part of St. Paul’s, the marshal thus addressed the buckle-maker, “ I’ll now shew you a brandy- “ shop that entertains no company but whores “ and thieves. This is a house for our purpose, “ and I am informed, that a woman of the town,
“ who

“ who frequents it, has lately decently robbed a
 “ gentleman of his watch and pocket book; the
 “ advice I received from her companion, with
 “ whom I have a good understanding. We will
 “ go into the house, and, if we can find this wo-
 “ man, I will assume a more stern countenance
 “ (though at best, I look like an infernal,) and,
 “ by continued threats, extort a confession, and
 “ by that means get possession of the watch and
 “ pocket-book; in order to which, do you sily
 “ accost her companion.”—Here he described
 her.—“ Call to her, and inform her, that your
 “ master is in a damned ill humour, and swears;
 “ if she does not instantly make a discovery where
 “ the watch and pocket-book may be found, at
 “ farthest by to-morrow, he will certainly send
 “ her to the Compter, and thence to the Work-
 “ house.”

The means being thus concerted to gain the
 valuable goods, both master and man entered the
 shop in pursuit of the game, and, according to
 expectation, they found the person wanted, with
 several others; whereupon the marshal, shewing
 an enraged countenance, becoming the design,
 and the buckle-maker being obliged to follow his
 example, the company said, that the master and
 man looked as sour as two devils.—“ Devils,”
 said the marshal, “ I’ll make some of you devils,
 “ if you do not immediately discover the watch
 “ and pocket-book, I am employed to procure.”
 —“ We do not know your meaning, sir,” an-
 swered some, “ Who do you discourse to?” said
 others, “ we know nothing of it.” The marshal
 replied in a more soft tone. “ You are ungrate-
 “ ful to the last degree, to deny me this small re-
 “ quest, when I was never let into the secret of
 “ any thing to be taken from a gentleman, but I
 “ com-

“ communicated it to you, describing the person
“ so exactly, that you could not mistake the
“ man; and there is so little got at this rate, that
“ the devil may trade with you for me.”

This speech being over, the marshal gave a nod to his man, who, in obedience to his master's motions, and his former commands, called one of the women to the door, and, telling the story above directed, the female answered, “Un-
“ conscionable devil! when he gets five or ten
“ guineas, not to bestow above five or ten shil-
“ lings upon us unfortunate wretches! but how-
“ ever, rather than go to the Compter, I'll try
“ what is to be done.”

The woman, returning to the marshal, asked him, what he would give for the delivery of the watch, being seven or eight pounds in value, and the pocket-book having in it several notes and goldsmith's bills: to whom the marshal answered, a guinea, and told her, it was much better to comply, than to go to Newgate, which she must certainly expect upon her refusal.

The woman replied, that the watch was in pawn for forty shillings, and, if he did not advance that sum, she should be obliged to strip herself for the redemption, though, when her furbelowed scarf was laid aside, she had nothing underneath, but furniture for a paper mill. After abundance of words, he allowed her 30s. for the watch and book, which she accepted, and the watch was never returned to the owner.

Some little time after this, a gentleman in liquor going into the Blue-Boar, near Moorfields, with a woman of the town, immediately lost his watch. He applied to the marshal, desiring his assistance: but the buckle-maker being well acquainted with the walk between Cripplegate, and Moor-

Moorfields, had the fortune to find the woman. The master immediately seized her, on notice given, and, by vehement threatnings, obliged her to a confession. She declared, that she had stolen the watch; and carried it to a woman, that kept a brandy-shop near, desiring her to assist in the sale of it. The mistress of the brandy-shop readily answered, she had it from an honest young woman that frequented her house, whose husband was gone to sea; whereupon she pawned the watch for its value, and ordered the sale.

This story seeming reasonable, the watch-maker purchased the watch, and gave the money agreed for it, which was fifty shillings. Thus the sale of the watch being discovered, the marshal with his staff and assistants, immediately repaired to the watchmaker's house, and seized the watch-maker, in the same manner as a person would do the greatest criminal: he carried him to a public-house, telling him that if he did not forthwith send for the watch, he should be committed to Newgate.

The watch-maker, not being any ways accustomed to unfair dealings, directly answered, that he bought the watch, and the person he had it of would produce the woman that stole it, if it were stolen, the woman being then present. The marshal replied, he had no business with the persons that stole the watch, but with him in whose possession it was found, and that, if he did not instantly send for the watch, and deliver it, without insisting upon any money, but, on the contrary, return him thanks for his civility, which deserved five or ten pieces, he would, without delay, send him to Newgate.

Upon this the innocent watch-maker, being much surprized, sent for the watch, and surrendered it to him; and since that he has been well satisfied, that the person who owned the watch made a present to the Marshal of three guineas for his trouble, and the poor watch-maker never had a farthing for his fifty shillings. This story and the following sufficiently demonstrate the honesty of the City Marshal.

Some time ago a biscuit-baker near Wapping, having lost a pocket-book, wherein was, among other papers, an exchequer bill for 100*l.* applied himself to the marshal's man, the buckle-maker, for the recovery thereof; the buckle-maker advised him to advertise it, and stop the payment of the bill, which he did accordingly; but, having no account of his bill, he came to the buckle-maker several times about it, and at length he told him, there had been with him a tall man, with a long peruke and sword, calling himself the city marshal, and asked him, if he had lost his pocket-book? the biscuit-maker answered, Yes, desiring to know his reasons for asking him such a question, and whether he could give him any intelligence. He replied, no, he could not give him any intelligence of it as yet; but desired to be informed, whether he had employed any person to search after it? To which the biscuit-baker answered, he had employed one Wild. Whereupon the marshal told him, he was under a mistake, for he should have applied to him, who was the only person in England that could have served him, being well assured it was entirely out of the power of Wild, or any of those fellows, to know where it was.—This was very certain, he having it at that time in his custody,
and

and desired to know the reward that would be given. The gentleman answered, he would give 10*l*. The marshal replied, that a greater reward should be offered, for that exchequer bills, and those things were ready money, and could immediately be sold, and that, if he had employed him in the beginning, and offered 40 or 50*l*. he would have served him.

The biscuit-baker acquainting Wild with this story, Wild gave it as his opinion that the pocket book was in the Marshal's possession, and therefore it would be to no purpose to continue advertising it, he being well assured, that the Marshal would not have taken the pains to find out the biscuit-baker, unless he knew how to get at it.

Upon the whole, Wild advised the biscuit-baker rather to advance his bidding, considering what hands the note was in, and because the Marshal had often told his servant, how easily he could dispose of bank-notes and exchequer bills, at gaming-houses, which he very much frequented.

Pursuant to this advice, the owner at last went a second time to the marshal, and bid forty pounds for his pocket-book and bill. "Zounds," "Sir," said the Marshal, "you are too late!" which was all the satisfaction he gave him. Thus the poor biscuit-baker was tricked out of his exchequer bill; but it happened a small time after, that some of the young fry of pick-pockets, under the tuition of the Marshal, fell out in sharing the money given them for this very pocket-book; whereupon one of them came to the person first employed by the biscuit-baker, and discovered the whole matter, viz. that he had sold the biscuit-baker's pocket book, with the hundred pound exchequer note in it, and other bills, to the

City-Marshal, at a tavern in Aldersgate-street, for four or five guineas.

The person to whom the boy applied himself, asked him what sort of a person the gentleman was that he took it from, who readily answered, that he was a lusty elderly man, with light hair, which was very apparent to be the same person. There are several living who will justify this account of the whole affair, and the exchequer bill was never returned to the owner, but paid to another person, though it could never be traced back.

This account entirely fact, contains a charge far greater than any the marshal has pretended to fix upon the thief-taker, as he styles him.

The following story is thought absolutely necessary to shew farther the dealings and good correspondence between the Marshal, the thieves and pickpockets about town.

Some time ago, when a person stood in the pillory near Charing Cross, a gentleman in the crowd was deprived of a pocket book, which had in it bills and lottery tickets, to the value of several hundred pounds; and a handsome reward was at first offered for it in a public advertisement, thirty pounds at least.

The marshal having a suspicion that a famous pick-pocket, known by his lame hand, had taken the book, he applied to him, and, to enforce a confession and delivery, told him, with a great deal of assurance, that he must be the person, such a man, with a lame hand, being described by the gentleman, to be near him, and whom, he was certain, had stolen his book. "In
" short,"

“ short,” says he, “ you had the book, and you
 “ must bring it to me, and you shall share the
 “ reward; but if you refuse to comply with such
 “ advantageous terms, you must never expect to
 “ come within the city gates; for, if you do,
 “ Bridewell, at least, if not Newgate, shall be
 “ your residence.”

Several meetings having taken place, the Marshal’s old friend could not deny that he had the pocket-book; but he said to the Marshal, “ I
 “ did not expect this rigorous treatment from
 “ you, after the services I have done you, in concealing you several times, and by that means,
 “ keeping you out of a goal. It is not the way
 “ to expect any future services. when all my former good offices are forgotten.”

The Marshal, notwithstanding these reasons, still insisted upon what he had first proposed; and, at length, the pick-pocket considering that he could not repair to the Exchange, or elsewhere, to follow his pilfering employment, without the Marshal’s consent, and fearing to be a mark of his revenge, he condescended to part with the pocket-book, upon terms reasonable between buyer and seller. “ Whereupon, (says the Marshal) I lost my money last night at gaming, except a gold watch in my pocket, which I believe there will be no enquiry after, it coming to hand by an intrigue with a famous woman of the town, whom the gentleman will be ashamed to prosecute, for fear of exposing himself. I’ll exchange goods for goods with you.” So the pick-pocket, rather than he would risk the consequence of disobliging his master, concluded the bargain.

The following story is to prove the Marshal's prodigious courage and forwardness to hang Burglars, even his own pupils, for the reward.

One night, not far from St. Paul's, the Marshal, and the buckle-maker, his man, went with a detachment of pick-pocket boys, who instantly, at the sight of their master took to their heels and ran away. The buckle-maker asked the meaning of their surprize. To which the Marshal answered, "I know their meaning, a pack
" of rogues! they were to have met me in the
" fields this morning with a book I am inform-
" ed they have taken from a gentleman, and
" they are afraid of being secured for their dis-
" obedience. There is Jack Jones, among them.
" —We'll catch the whore's-birds." Jack Jones, running behind a coach to make his escape, was taken by the Marshal and his man. The master carried him to a tavern, and threatened him severely, telling him he believed they were turned house-breakers, and that they were concerned in a burglary lately committed by four young criminals. This happened to be fact, and the boy fearing the Marshal had been informed of it, he, for his own security, confessed, and the Marshal promised to save his life on his becoming evidence. Whereupon the Marshal committed the boy to the Compter till the next morning, when he carried him before a justice of the peace, who took his information, and issued a warrant for the apprehending his companions.

Notice being given where the criminals were to be found, viz. at a house in Beech-lane, the Mar-

Marshal and his man went privately in the night thither, and listening at the door, they overheard the boys, with several others in a mixed company.

They entered the house, where they met ten or eleven persons, who were in a great rage, enquiring what business the marshal had there, and saluted him with a few oaths, which occasioned the Marshal to make a prudent retreat, pulling the door after him, and leaving his little man to the mercy of the savage company.

In a short time, the Marshal returned with eight or ten watchmen and a constable; and, at the door, the Marshal, out of his dastardly disposition, though his pretence was a ceremonious respect, obliged the constable to go in first; but the constable and Marshal were both so long in their compliments, that the man thought neither of them would enter in; at last the constable entering with his long staff extended before him, the Marshal manfully followed, crying out, "Where are the rebel villains? Why don't ye secure them?" The Buckle-maker answered, that they were under the table; upon which the constable pulled out the juvenile offenders, neither of whom were above twelve years of age. The two boys now taken were committed to Newgate; but the fact being committed in the county of Surry, they were afterwards removed to the Marshalsea prison. The assizes coming on at Kingston, and Jones giving his evidence against his companions, before the grand jury, the bill was found, and the Marshal indorsed his name on the back of it, to have the honour of being an evidence against those monstrous house-breakers. On the trial, the nature of the fact was declared; but the parents of the offenders appear-

appeared, and satisfied the court, that the Marshal was the occasion of the ruin of these boys, by taking them into the fields, and encouraging them in the stealing of pocket-books: and told him, on his affirming they were thieves, that he had made them such.

The judge observing the marshal's views were more to get the reward than to do justice, summed up the charge to the jury, in favour of the boys, who were thereupon acquitted, and the marshal reprimanded. He was so enraged at this, and so angry with himself for not accusing the boys of other crimes, that he immediately returned to London, and left his man to discharge the whole reckoning at Kiington.

In order to illustrate the preceding, we think it necessary to add the following story :

A gentleman, that had lost his watch when in company with a woman of the town; applied to a person belonging to the Compter, who recommended him to the buckle-maker to procure the same; and the gentleman applying accordingly to him, and giving a description of the woman, the buckle-maker, a few days after, traversing Fleet-street with his master in an evening, happened to meet with the female, (as he apprehended by the description of the gentleman) who had stolen the watch, and, coming nearer, he was satisfied therein.

He told his master, that she was the very person described; to which the master answered, with an air of pleasure, " I am glad to find we
" have a prospect of something to-night to de-
" fray our expence," and immediately with his man seized the female, and carried her to a pub-

lic-house, where, upon examination, she confessed it was in her power to serve the marshal in it; telling him, that, if he would please to go with her home, or send his man, the watch would be returned, and a suitable reward for his trouble. The man asked his master his opinion, whether he thought he might pursue the woman with safety? to which he replied, Yes, for that he knew her: and giving hints of his following at a reasonable distance for his security. which he did with a great deal of precaution, as will appear: for the man proceeding with the female, she informed him that her husband, who had the watch about him, was at a tavern near Whitefriars, and, if he would condescend to go thither, he might be furnished with it, without giving himself any farther trouble, together with the reward he deserved, To which the man consented; and, coming to the tavern, she made enquiry for the company she had been with but a short space before; and, being informed they were still in the house, she sent in word by the drawer, that the gentlewoman who had been with them that evening, desired the favour to speak with them. The drawer going in, and delivering the message, immediately three or four gentlemen came from the room to the woman: she gave them to understand, that the marshal's man had accused her of stealing a watch, telling them she supposed it must be some other woman, who had assumed her name, and desiring their protection; upon this the whole company sallied out, and attacked the marshal's man in a very violent manner, to make a rescue of the female, upbraiding him for disgracing a gentlewoman of her reputation.

The marshal, observing the ill success of his

man, and fearing the discipline of a poker, fire-fork, or firebrands (which his man was obliged to go through) reserving his fate of this kind to futurity, decently made off, hugging himself that he had escaped the severe treatment he equally deserved with them.

The man in the struggle shewed his resentment chiefly against the female; and, after a long contest, wherein he disrobed her so effectually, that she appeared like Eve without her fig-leaf, she was in that pickle thrust out at the back door; and immediately the watch being called, he and the rest of the men were seized.

As they were going to the Compter, the Marshal overtook them near Bow-church, and asked his man the occasion of his long absence, coming up to him in great haste; the man answered, that he had been at the tavern with the woman, where he thought he saw him: the master answered, that indeed he was there. but, seeing the confusion so great, he went off to call the watch and constables.

This dialogue being over, the marshal used his interest to get his man off, but to no purpose, he being carried to the Compter with the rest of the company, in order to make an agreement there.

The next morning the woman sent to her companions in the Compter, letting them know, that, if they could be released, the watch should be returned without any consideration, which was accordingly done; and a small present made to the marshal's man for smart-money; and upon this the persons were all discharged, paying their fees.

The watch being now ready to be produced to the owner, the marshal insisted upon the greatest
part

part of the reward, as being the greatest person in authority: the man declared it unreasonable, unless he had partook of the largest share of the bastinado. "But however," says the marshal, "I have now an opportunity of playing my old game; I'll oblige the gentleman to give me ten guineas to save his reputation, which is so nearly concerned with a common prostitute." But the gentleman knew too much of his character to be thus imposed upon, and would give him no more than what he promised, which was three guineas. The master at first refused, but his man (who had the most right to make a new contract) advising him to act cautiously, he at last agreed to accept the reward at first offered, giving his man only one guinea for his service and the cure of his wounds. This is a sufficient instance of the marshal's cowardice and inhumanity.

Thus having recited some faithful accounts of the flagrant crimes the marshal has been guilty of in the way of thief-taking, I come to others of less consequence.

One night the marshal and buckle-maker being abroad on their walks, not far from the Temple, they discovered a clergyman standing against the wall, in an ally to which he had retired, as persons frequently do on account of modesty and decency. Immediately a woman of the town lying in wait for prey, brushed by, the clergyman saying aloud, "What does the woman want?" The marshal instantly run in upon them, and seized the clergyman, bidding his man secure the woman. The clergyman resisted, protesting his innocence, (which his language to the woman confirmed) but finding it to no purpose, he at last desired that he might be permitted to go into an ironmonger's house near; but the marshal refused,

and dragged the clergyman to the end of Salisbury Court in Fleet-street, where he raised a mob about him; and two or three gentlemen that knew the parson, happening to come by, asked the mob what they were doing with him, telling them he was chaplain to a noble lord. The rough gentry answered, "Damn him, we believe he's chaplain to the devil, for we caught him with a whore."

Hereupon the gentlemen desired the marshal to go to a tavern that they might talk with him without noise and tumult, which he consented to. When they came into the tavern, the clergyman asked the marshal by what authority he thus abused him? the marshal replied, he was a city-officer (pulling out his staff) and would have him to the Compter, unless he gave very good security for his appearance the next morning, when he would swear that he caught him with the whore.

The clergyman seeing him so bent upon perjury, which would very much expose him, sent for other persons to vindicate his reputation, who, putting a glittering security into the marshal's hand (which they found was the only way to deal with such a monster in iniquity) the clergyman was permitted to depart.

The marshal being now ready for another adventure, going up Ludgate-hill, he observed a well-dressed woman walking before, which he told the buckle-maker was a lewd woman, for that he saw her talking with a man. This was no sooner spoke but he seized her, and asked her who she was? She made answer, that she was a bailiff's wife. "You are more like to be a whore," said the marshal, "and as such you shall go to the Compter."

Taking

While he was taking the woman through St. Paul's Church-yard, she importuned liberty to send for some friends; but he would not comply with her request. He forced her into the Nag's-head tavern in Cheapside, where he presently ordered a hot supper and plenty of wine to be brought in; commanding the female to sit at a distance from his worship, and telling her, that he did not permit such vermin to sit in his presence, though he intended to make her pay the reckoning.

The supper being brought to the table, he fell to it lustily, and would not allow the woman to eat any part of the supper with him, or to come near the fire, though it was extreme cold weather. When he had supped, he stared round, and, applying himself to her, told her, that if he had been an informer, or such a fellow, she would have called for eatables and wine herself, and not have given him the trouble of direction, or else would have slipped a piece into his hand. Adding, "You may do what you please: but though we
 " that buy our places, seem to go for nothing, I
 " can assure you it is in my power, if I see a wo-
 " man in the hands of informers, to discharge
 " her, and commit them. You are not so igno-
 " rant, but you must guess my meaning." She replied, that she had money enough to pay for the supper, and about three half crowns more. This desirable answer being given, he ordered his attendance to withdraw, while he compounded the matter with her.

When the buckle-maker came in again, the gentlewoman was very civilly asked to sit by the fire, and eat the remainder of the supper, and in all respects treated very kindly, only with a pretended reprimand to give him better language whenever he should speak to her for the future.

And

And, after another bottle drank at her expence, she was discharged. This is an excellent method to get a good supper gratis, and to fill an empty pocket.

These are some of the most remarkable adventures of the marshal and his man, after the marshal's suspension? and many others might be enumerated, but, unwilling to tire the reader's patience, I omit them; though it may not be amiss to inform the public, that a certain person, before his disgrace, used to have daily meetings with the pick pocket boys in Moorfields, and to treat them there plentifully with cakes and ale; offering them sufficient encouragement to continue their theft; and at a certain time it happened, that one of the boys, more cunning than his companions, having stolen an alderman's pocket-book, and opening it, and finding several bank bills, he gave the marshal to understand, that it was worth a great deal beyond the usual price; and the notes being of considerable value, he insisted upon five pieces. The marshal told the boy, that five pieces was enough to break him at once; that if he gave him two guineas he would be sufficiently paid, but assured him, that if he had the good luck to obtain a handsome reward, he would make it up five pieces.

Upon this present encouragement and future expectation, the boy delivered up the pocket-book, and a few days afterwards, being informed that a very large reward had been given for the notes, he applied to the marshal for the remaining three guineas according to promise; but all the satisfaction he had was, that he should be sent to the house of correction if he continued to demand it; the marshal telling him, that such
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rascals as he were ignorant how to dispose of their money.

To prove that he dealt from the beginning with pick-pocket boys, I need only mention the cause of his being suspended; which was for his conniving at the intrigues of the pick-pockets; taking the stolen pocket-books, and sending threatening letters to the persons that lost them, under pretence that they had been in company with lewd women; and for extorting money from several persons, and one in particular, who making his complaint to an eminent apothecary in the Poultry, that knew the villainy of the marshal, the affair was brought before the court of Aldermen, when, upon examination, the marshal was found guilty of that and many other nototious crimes, upon which he was suspended.

In order to exhibit another part of the marshal's character, the following adventure is related.

One night the marshal invited his man, the buckle-maker, to a house near the end of the Old Bailey, telling him, that he could introduce him to a company of he-whores. The man, not rightly apprehending his meaning, asked him if they were hermaphrodites?—"No, you fool you," said the marshal, "they are sodomites, such as deal with their own sex instead of females."

This being a curiosity the buckle-maker had not hitherto met with, he willingly accompanied his master to the house, which they had no sooner entered, but the marshal was complimented by the company with the titles of madam and ladyship.

The man, asking the occasion of these uncommon devoirs, the marshal said it was a familiar lan-

language peculiar to the house. The man was not long there, before he was more surprised than at first; the men calling one another my dear, and hugging, kissing, and tickling each other, as if they were a mixture of wanton males and females and assuming effeminate voices and airs. Some telling others that they ought to be whipped for not coming to school more frequently.

The marshal was very merry in this assembly, and dallied with the young sparks with a great deal of pleasure, till some persons came into the house that he little expected to meet with in that place; and then, finding it out of his power to secure the lads to himself he started up on a sudden in a prodigious rage, asking the frolicking youths, if they were become so common as to use these obnoxious houses, and telling them he would spoil their diversion: upon this he made his exit with his man.

While the marshal was going out of the house he said, he supposed they would have the impudence to make a ball. The man desiring him to explain what he meant by that, he answered, that there was a noted house in Holborn, to which such sort of persons used to repair, and dress themselves up in women's apparel, and dance and romp about, and make such a hellish noise, that a man would swear they were a parcel of cats a catterwauling. —“ But,” says he, “ I’ll be revenged of these “ smock-faced young dogs. I’ll watch their walters, and secure them, and send them to the “ Compter.”

The marshal accordingly, as he knew their usual hours, and customary walks, placed himself with a constable in Fleet-street, and dispatched his man, with another to assist him, to the Old Bayley,

ley. At the expected time several of the sporting youngsters were seized in women's apparel, and conveyed to the Compter.

They were carried the succeeding day before the lord-mayor in the same dress they were taken in. Some were compleatly rigged in gowns, petticoats, head-cloaths, fine laced shoes, furbelowed scarves and masks; some had riding-hoods: some were dressed like milk-maids, others like shepherdesses with green hats, waistcoats and petticoats; and others had their faces patched and painted, and wore very extensive hoop-petticoats, which had been very lately introduced.

After a strict examination, his lordship committed them to the work-house, there to continue at hard labour during pleasure; and, as part of their punishment, ordered them to be publicly conducted through the streets in their female habits: pursuant to which order, the young tribe were carried in pomp to the work-house, and remained there a considerable time, till at last, one of them threatened the marshal with the same punishment for former adventures, and he thereupon applied to my lord-mayor, and produced their discharge.

One of the young gentlemen was so mortified by this commitment, that he died in a few days after his release.—Any that want to be acquainted with the Sodomitical Academy, may be informed where it is, and be graciously introduced by the accomplished Mr. Hitchin *.

* This Hitchin being convicted of sodomitical practices, April, 1727, was sentenced to pay a fine of 20*l*. stand in the pillory, and to suffer six months imprisonment.

We shall now proceed to give some further account of the hero of this narrative. When the thieves with whom he was in league faithfully related to him the particulars of the robberies they had committed, and entrusted to him the disposal of their booties, he assured them that they might safely rely on him for protection against the vengeance of the law: and, indeed, it must be acknowledged that in cases of this nature he would persevere in his endeavours to surmount very great difficulties rather than wilfully falsify his word,

The artful behaviour, and punctuality with which Wild discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination: in so much that if he caused it to be intimated to them that he was desirous of seeing them; and that they should not be molested, they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, and that their lives were absolutely in his power: but if they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect: “ I have given you my word that you should come and go in safety, and so you shall: but take care of yourself, for if ever you see me again, you see an enemy.”

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves will not be thought a very extraordinary matter if it is considered that when he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate he was always desirous, and generally able, to succeed. Such as complied with his measures he would never interrupt; but,

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on the contrary, afford them every encouragement for prosecuting their iniquitous practices; and if apprehended by any other person he seldom failed of procuring their discharge. His most usual method (in desperate cases, and when matters could not be managed with more ease and expedition) was to procure them to be admitted evidences, under pretext that it was in their power to make discoveries of high importance to the public. When they were in prison he frequently attended them, and communicated to them from his own memorandums such particulars as he judged it would be prudent for them to relate to the court. When his accomplices were apprehended and he was not able to prevent their being brought to trial, he contrived stratagems (in which his invention was amazingly fertile) for keeping the principal witnesses out of court; so that the delinquents were generally dismissed in defect of evidence.

Wild was ever a most implacable enemy to those thieves who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects for their own separate advantage. He was industrious to an extreme in his endeavours to surrender them into the hands of justice; and being acquainted with all their usual places of resort, it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance.

By subjecting those who incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law he obtained the rewards offered for pursuing them to conviction; greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, who considered him with a kind of awe; and, at the same time, established his character as being a man of great public utility.

It was Jonathan's practice to give instructions to the thieves whom he employed as to the man-

ner in which they should conduct themselves ; and if they followed his directions, it was seldom that they failed of success. But if they neglected a strict observance of his rules, or were, through inadvertency or ignorance, guilty of any kind of mismanagement or error in the prosecution of the schemes he had suggested, it was to be understood almost as an absolute certainty that he would procure them to be convicted at the next sessions, deeming them to be unqualified for the profession of roguery.

He was frequently asked, how it was possible that he could carry on the business of restoring stolen effects, and yet not be in league with the robbers ; and his replies were always to this purpose : “ My acquaintance among thieves is very extensive, and when I receive information of a robbery I make enquiry after the suspected parties, and leave word at proper places that if the goods are left where I appoint the reward shall be paid, and no questions asked. Surely no imputation of guilt can fall upon me ; for I hold no interviews with the robbers, nor are the goods given into my possession.”

We shall now give our readers a relation of the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages ! which our account must necessarily include many particulars relating to other notorious characters.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving her sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found ; in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second applica-
tion

tion Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the Chapel in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields on the following morning during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the Piazzas of the Chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains, and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A young gentleman named Knap accompanied his mother to Sadler's-Wells on Saturday, March 31, 1716. On their return they were attacked about ten at night near the wall of Gray's-Inn-Gardens by five villains. The young gentleman was immediately knocked down, and his mother being exceedingly alarmed, called for assistance; upon which a pistol was discharged at her, and she instantly fell down dead. A considerable reward was offered by proclamation in the Gazette for the discovery of the perpetrator of this horrid crime; and Wild was remarkably assiduous in his endeavours to apprehend the offenders. From a description given of some of the villains, Wild immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman, alias Edward Darvel, Timothy Dun, and Isaac Rag.

On Sunday, April 8, in the evening, Wild received intelligence that some of the above-named men were drinking with their prostitutes at a house kept by John Weatherly's in Newtoner's-Lane. He went to Weatherly's accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight in a hackney coach, and lodged him in the Round-house.

White being secured, information was given to Wild that a man nemed James Aires was then

at the Bell Inn, Smithfield, in company with a woman of the town. Having an information against Aires, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, repaired to the inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken by the informer for that of Aires. Thurland was provided by two brace of pistols, but being suddenly seized, he was deprived of all opportunity of making use of those weapons, and taken into custody.

They went, on the following night to a house in White Horse Alley, Drury-Lane, where they apprehended Chapman, alias Darvel. Soon after the murder of Mrs. Knap, Chapman and others stopped the coach of John as Middlethwaite, Esq; but that gentleman escaped being robbed by discharging a blunderbuss and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired.

In a short time after this Wild apprehended Isaac Rag at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with a burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Rag impeached twenty two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, footpads and receivers of stolen effects; and in consequence hereof he was admitted an evidence for the crown.

This Isaac Rag was convicted of a misdemeanor in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He had concealed himself in the dust-hole belonging to the house of Thomas Powell, where being discovered, he was searched, and a pistol, some matches, and a number of pick-lock keys were found in his possession. His intention was evidently to commit a burglary, but as he did not enter the house, he was indicted for a misdemeanor in entering the yard with intent

intent to steal. He was indicted in October 1715, for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell on the 24th of August: but he was acquitted of this charge.

White, Thurland, and Chapman were arraigned on the 18th of May, 1716, at the sessions house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, Gent. putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wig, on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow; White by discharging a pistol loaded with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound, of which she immediately died, May 32, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Ruffel for a burglary in the house of George Barclay. And Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of June, 1716.

Wild was indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dun, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed himself in the most cautious manner. Wild, however, did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success that he made a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time.

Dun's confinement, at length, became exceedingly irksome to him, and he sent his wife to make enquiries respecting him of Wild, in order to discover whether he was still in danger of being
 appre-

apprehended. Upon her departure from Wild's, he ordered one of his people to follow her home. She took water at Black Friars, and landed at the Falcon, but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water and crossed to White Friars; observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, it being nearly dark, she imagined she had escaped the observation of Wild's man, and therefore walked immediately home. The man traced her to Maid-Lane, near the Bank-side, Southwark, and perceiving her enter a house, he marked the wall with chalk, and then returned to his employer with an account of the discovery he had made.

Wild, accompanied by his man Abraham, one Riddlefden, and another man, went on the following morning to the house where the woman had been seen to enter. Dun hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got through a back window on the second floor upon the roof of a pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol, and wounded Dun in the arm, in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard: after his fall Riddlefden discharged a pistol and wounded him in the face with small shot. Dun was secured and carried to Newgate, and being tried at the ensuing sessions, he was soon after executed at Tyburn.

Riddlefden was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business and abandoned himself to every species of wickedness. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel at Whitehall, and stole the communion plate. He was convicted of this offence, and received sentence
of

of death, but through the exertion of powerful interest a pardon was obtained on condition of transporting himself for the term of seven years. He went to America, but soon returned to England, and had the address to ingratiate himself into the favour of a young lady, daughter to an opulent merchant at Newcastle upon Tyne. Before he could get his wife's fortune, which was considerable, into his hands, he was discovered and committed to Newgate. His wife followed him, and was brought to bed in the prison. Her friends, however, being apprized of her unhappy situation, caused her to return home. He contracted an intimacy with the widow of Richard Revel, one of the turnkeys of Newgate; and being permitted to transport himself again, the woman went with him to Philadelphia, under the character of his wife.

In consequence of a disagreement between them, Mrs Revel returned, and took a public-house in Golden-Lane: but what became of Riddlefden we have not been able to learn.

One Arnold Powell, a thief of most infamous character being confined in Newgate on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden-Square, of property to a great amount, he was visited by Jonathan, who informed him that in consideration of a sum of money he would save his life, adding that if the proposal was rejected he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power to do him any injury, bid him defiance. Powell was brought to trial; but through a defect of evidence he was acquitted. Having gained intelligence that Powell had com-

mitted a burglary in the house of Mr. Eastlick, near Fleet-ditch, he caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary, Powell sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected according to the terms which Wild himself proposed, in consequence of which Powell was assured that his life should be preserved.

Upon the approach of the sessions Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials, and as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powell would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar, and no persons appearing to prosecute, he was ordered to be taken away; but after some time he was again set to the bar, then ordered away, and afterwards put up a third time, proclamation being made each time for the prosecutor to appear. At length the jury were charged with the prisoner, and as no accusation was adduced against him, he was necessarily dismissed; and the court ordered Mr. Eastlick's recognizances to be estreated.

Powell was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions, there being another indictment against him; and Mr. Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the court, who justly reprimanded him with great severity.

Powell put himself into a salivation in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions, but notwithstanding this stratagem he was arraigned and convicted; and executed on the 20th of March 1716-17.

At this time Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seagoe's, and hired a house adjoining

adjoining to the Cooper's Arms on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. The unexampled villainies of this man were now become an object of so much consequence as to excite the particular attention of the legislature. In the year 1718 an act was passed, deeming every person guilty of a capital offence who should accept a reward in consideration of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief.

It was the general opinion that the above law would effectually suppress the iniquitous practices of Wild; but after some interruptions to his proceedings he devised means for evading the law, which were for several years attended with success.

Wild now declined the custom of receiving money from the persons who applied to him, but upon the second or third time of calling informed them that all he had been able to learn respecting their business was, that if a sum of money was left at an appointed place their property would be restored the same day.

Sometimes as the person robbed was returning from Wild's house he was accosted in the street by a man who delivered the stolen effects, at the same time producing a note expressing the sum that was to be paid for them.

In cases wherein he supposed danger was to be apprehended he advised people to advertise that whoever would bring the stolen good to Jonathan Wild should be rewarded; and no questions asked them.

In the two first instances it could not be proved that he either saw the thief, received the goods, or accepted a reward; and in the latter case he acted agreeable to the directions of the injured party, and there appeared no reason to criminate him as being in confederacy with the felons.

When he was asked what would satisfy him for his trouble, he told the persons who had recovered their property that what he had done was without any interested view; but merely from a principle of doing good; that therefore he made no claim: but if he accepted a pretent he should not consider it as being his due, but as an instance of generosity which he should acknowledge accordingly.

Our adventurer's business increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newtoner's-Lane, to the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkably industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who intrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

By an intense application to business Wild much impaired his health, so that he judged it prudent to retire into the country for a short time. He hired a lodging at Dulwich, leaving both offices under the direction of Abraham.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank-notes to the amount of seven thousand pounds. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who in a few days apprehended three pickpockets, and conducted them to Jonathan's lodgings at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes, Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham he restored her property, and she generously made him a present of four hundred pounds, which he delivered to his employer.

These three pickpockets were afterwards apprehended for some other offences, and transported. One of them carefully concealed a bank note for a thousand pounds in the lining of his coat. On his arrival at Maryland he procured
cash

cash for the note, and having purchased his freedom, went to New-York, where he assumed the character of a gentleman.

On account of his business, Wild did not remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he did not keep open the office in Newtoner's-Lane for more than three months.

Some few days after the return of Wild from Dulwich a mercer in Lombard-street ordered a porter to carry to a particular inn a box containing goods to the amount of two hundred pounds. In his way the porter was observed by three thieves, one of whom, being more genteelly dressed than his companions, accosted the man in the following manner: "If you are willing to earn six-pence, my friend, step to the tavern at the end of the street, and ask for the roquelaure I left at the bar: but lest the waiter should scruple giving it you, take my gold watch as a token. Pitch your burden upon this bulk and I will take care of it till your return; but be sure you make haste." The man went to the tavern, and having delivered his message, was informed that the thing he enquired for had not been left there; upon which the porter said, "Since you scruple to trust me, look at this gold watch, which the gentleman gave me to produce as a token." What was called a gold watch, being examined, proved to be only pewter lacquered. In consequence of this discovery the porter hastened back to where he had left the box, but neither that nor the sharpers were to be found.

The porter was, with reason, apprehensive that he should incur his master's displeasure if he related what had happened; and in order to excuse

cuse his folly he determined upon the following stratagem; he rolled himself in the mud, and then went home, saying he had been knocked down and robbed of the goods.

The master of this property applied to Wild, and related to him the story he had been told by his servant. Wild told him he had been deceived as to the manner in which the trunk was lost, and that he should be convinced of it if he would send for his servant. A messenger was dispatched for the porter, and upon his arrival, Abraham conducted him into a room separated from the office only by a slight partition: "Your master" (said Abraham) "has just been here concerning the box you lost; and he desired that you might be sent for in order to communicate the particulars of the robbery. What kind of people were the thieves, and in what manner did they take the box away?" In reply the man said, "Why, two or three fellows knocked me down, and then carried off the box." Hereupon Abraham told him, that "If they knocked him down there was but little chance of the property being recovered, since that offence rendered them liable to be hanged. But (continued he) let me prevail upon you to speak the truth; for if you persist in a refusal, be assured we shall discover it by some other means. Pray do you recollect nothing about a token? Were you not to fetch a roquelaure from a tavern, and did you not produce a gold watch as a token to induce the waiter to deliver it?" Astonished at Abraham's words, the porter declared, "he believed he was a witch," and immediately acknowledged in what manner he had lost the box.

JONATHAN WILD—for capital Offences. 63

One of the villains concerned in the above transaction lived in the house formerly inhabited by Wild in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate. To this place Jonathan and Abraham repaired, and when they were at the door, they overheard a dispute between the man and his wife, during which the former declared that he would set out for Holland the next day. Upon this they forced open the door, and Wild, saying he was under a necessity of preventing his intended voyage, took him into custody, and conducted him to the Compter.

On the following day the goods being returned to the owner, Wild received a handsome reward; and he contrived to procure the discharge of the thief.

On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718-19, Margaret Dodwell and Alice Wright went to Wild's house, and desired to have a private interview with him. Observing one of the women to be with child, he imagined she might want a father to her expected issue: for it was a part of his business to procure persons to stand in the place of the real fathers of children born in consequence of illicit commerce. Being shewn into another room, Dodwell spoke in the following manner: "I do not come, Mr. Wild, to inform you that I have met with any loss, but that I wish to find something. If you will follow my advice you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousands." Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprize so highly lucrative, and the woman proceeded thus: "My plan is this; you must procure two or three stout resolute fellows, who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood-street, near Bishopsgate. This house is kept
" by

“ by a cane-chair maker, named John Cooke;
“ who has a lodger, an antient maiden lady, im-
“ mensely rich; and she keeps her money in a
“ box in her apartment: she is now gone into
“ the country to fetch more. One of the men
“ must find an opportunity of getting into the
“ shop in the evening, and conceal himself in a
“ saw-pit there; he may let his companions in
“ when the family are retired to rest. But it will
“ be particularly necessary to secure two stout
“ apprentices and a boy, who lay in the garret.
“ I wish, however, that no murder may be com-
“ mitted.” Upon this Wright said, “ Phoo!
“ phoo! when people engage in matters of this
“ sort they must manage as well as they can, and
“ so as to provide for their own safety.” Dod-
well now resumed her discourse to Jonathan:
“ The boys being secured no kind of difficulty
“ will attend getting possession of the old lady’s
“ money, she being from home, and her room
“ under that where the boys sleep. In the room
“ facing that of the old lady, Cooke and his wife
“ lay: he is a man of remarkahle courage, great
“ caution, therefore, must be observed respect-
“ ing him; and indeed I think it would be as
“ well to knock him on the head; for then his
“ drawers may be rifled, and he is never with-
“ out money. A woman and a child lay under
“ the room belonging to the old lady, but I hope
“ no violence will be offered to them.”

Wild upon hearing of the above proposal, took the women into custody, and lodged them in Newgate. It is not to be supposed that his conduct in this affair proceeded from a principle of virtue or justice, but that he declined engaging in the iniquitous scheme from an ap-
prehen-
sion

pretensions that their design was to draw him into a snare.

Dodwell had lived five months in Mr. Cooke's house, and though she paid no rent, he was too generous to turn her out, or in any manner to oppress her: Wild prosecuted Dodwell and Wright for a misdemeanor, and being found guilty, they were sentenced each to suffer six months imprisonment.

Wild had inserted in his book a gold watch, a quantity of fine lace and other property of considerable value which John Butler had stolen from a house at Newington-Green: but as Butler, instead of coming to account as usual, had declined his felonious practices, and lived on the produce of his booty. Wild, highly enraged at being excluded his share, determined to pursue every possible means for subjecting him to the power of justice.

Wild, having been informed that he lodged at a public-house in Bishopsgate-street, went to the house early one morning, when Butler, hearing him ascending the stairs, jumped out of the window of his room, and climbing over the wall of the yard, got into the street. Wild broke open the door of the room, but was exceedingly disappointed and mortified to find that the man in whom he was in pursuit had escaped. In the mean time Butler ran into a house, the door of which stood open, and descending to the kitchen, where some women were washing, told them he was pursued by a bailiff, and they advised him to conceal himself in the coal hole.

Upon this Jonathan came out of the ale house, and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, enquired of the master; who was a dyer.

whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered in the negative, saying he had not left his shop more than a minute since it had been opened. Wild requested to search the house, and the dyer readily complied. Wild asked the women if they knew whether a man had taken shelter in the house, which they denied; but informing them that the man he sought for was a thief, they said he would find him in the coal-hole.

Wild and his attendants having got a constable searched the place without effect, and they examined every part of the house with no better success. He observed that the villain must have escaped into the street; on which the dyer said, that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must be in the house, for he had not quitted the shop, and it was impossible that a man could pass to the street without his knowledge; and he advised Wild to search the cellar again. They now went together into the cellar: and after some time spent in searching, the dyer turned up a large vessel, used in his business, and Butler appeared. Wild asked him in what manner he had disposed of the goods he stole from Newington Green, upbraided him as being guilty of ingratitude, and declared that he should certainly be hanged.

Butler, however, knowing the means by which an accommodation might be effected, directed Wild to go to his lodging and look behind the head of the bed, where he would find what would recompence him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what perfectly satisfied him; but as Butler had been apprehended in a public manner, the other was under the necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who

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JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 67

committed him for trial. He was tried the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey : but by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to die, he was only sentenced to transportation.

Being at an inn in Smithfield, Wild observed a large trunk in the yard, and imagining that it contained property of value, hastened home, and instructed one of the thieves he employed to carry it off. The man who performed this business was named Jeremiah Rann, and he was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London. Having dressed himself so as exactly to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed.

Mr. Jarvis, a whip-maker by trade, and the proprietor of the trunk, had no sooner discovered his loss than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods, in consideration of receiving ten guineas. Some time after a disagreement took place between Jonathan and Rann, and the former apprehended the latter, who was tried and condemned to die. The day preceding that on which Rann was executed, he sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars relative to the truth. Mr. Jarvis threatened Wild with a prosecution, but all apprehensions on that score were soon dissipated by the decease of Mr. Jarvis.

Wild being much embarrassed in endeavouring to find out some method by which he might safely dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, revolved in his mind a variety of schemes ; but, at length, he adopted that which follows : he purchased a sloop, in order to transport the goods to Holland and

Flanders, and gave the command of the vessel to a notorious thief named Roger Johnson.

Osland was the port where this vessel principally traded, but when the goods were not disposed of there, Johnson navigated her to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other places. He brought home lace, wine, brandy, &c. and these commodities were landed in the night, without causing any increase in the business of the revenue officers. This trade was continued about two years, when two pieces of lace being lost, Johnson deducted the value of them from the mate's pay. Violently irritated by this conduct, the mate lodged an information against Johnson for running a great quantity of various kinds of goods. In consequence of this the vessel was exchequered, Johnson cast in damages to the amount of 700*l*. and the commercial proceedings were entirely ruined.

A disagreement had for some time subsisted between Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves in Long-lane, concerning the division of some booty. Meeting one day in the Strand, they charged each other with felony, and were both taken into custody. Wild bailed Johnson, and Edwards was not prosecuted. The latter had no sooner recovered his liberty than he gave information against Wild, whose private warehouses-being searched, a great quantity of stolen goods were found. Wild arrested Edwards in the name of Johnson, to whom he pretended the goods belonged, and he was taken to the Marshalsea, but the next day procured bail. Edwards, determined to wreak revenge upon Johnson, for some time industriously sought for him in vain; but meeting him accidentally in White chapel-road he gave him into the custody
of

JONATHAN WILD—for various Offences. 69

of a peace officer, who conducted him to an adjacent ale-house. Johnson sent for Wild, who immediately attended, accompanied by his man Quilt Arnold. Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed himself of an opportunity of effecting an escape.

Information being made against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks, at the end of which time, supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. Learning that Wild had returned, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to his house in the Old Bailey, on the 15th of February, 1723, and apprehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Fryer, who committed them to Newgate on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be either admitted to bail, or discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday a warrant of detainer was produced against him in court, and to it was affixed the following articles of information.

I. “ That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pick-pockets, house-breakers, shop lifters, and other thieves.

II. “ That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director, and that notwithstanding his pretended services, in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

III. “ That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct
gangs

gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service: and likewise other moving detachments to attend at court, on birth-days, balls, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

IV. "That the persons employed by him were for the most part felons-convict, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported, was expired; and that he made choice of them to be his agents, because they could not be legal evidences against him, and because he had it in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them as he pleased.

V. "That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and cloaths, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some, against whom there are now information for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces of guineas.

VI. "That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the above mentioned convicted felons.

VII. "That, in order to carry on these vile practices, to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce, when he himself was concerned in robbing.

VIII. "That he had under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods: and also a ship for carrying
off

off jewels, watches, and other valuable goods, to Holland, where he had a superannuated thief for his factor.

IX. “ That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

X. “ That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

XI. “ And lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of; sometimes to prevent them from being evidences against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government.”

The information of Mr. Jones was also read in court, setting forth that two persons would be produced to accuse the prisoner of capital offences. The men alluded to in the above affidavit were John Follard and Thomas Butler, who had been convicted: but it being deemed expedient to grant them a pardon on condition of their appearing in support of a prosecution against Wild, they pleaded to the same, and were remanded to Newgate till the next sessions.

Saturday the 10th of April, Wild by council moved that his trial might be postponed till the ensuing sessions, and an affidavit made by the prisoner was read in court purporting that till the preceding evening he was entirely ignorant of a bill having been found against him; that he
knew

knew not what offence was charged against him, and was unable to procure two material witnesses, one of them living near Brentford, and the other in Somersetshire. This was opposed by the council for the crown, who urged that it would be improper to defer his trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made by the prisoner; that the affidavit expressed an ignorance of what offence he was charged with, and yet declared that two nameless persons were material witnesses.

Wild now informed the court that his witnesses were ——— Hays, at the Packhorse, on Turnham-green, and ——— Wilson, a clothier at Frome: adding that he had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony committed upon a person named Stetham. The prisoner's council moved that the names of Hays and Wilson might be inserted in the affidavit, and that it should be again sworn to by the prisoner. The council for the prosecution observed that justice would not be denied the prisoner, though it could not be reasonably expected that he would be allowed any extraordinary favours or indulgences. Follard and Butler were, at length, bound each in the penalty of 300*l.* to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined.

Saturday May the 15th, 1725, Jonathan Wild was indicted for 'privately stealing in the house of Catherine Stetham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catherine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catherine on the 10th of March ten guineas on account, and under pretence of restoring the said lace, without apprehend.

hending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads before the court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of “ A List of
“ Persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted
“ of several Robberies on the High-Way : and
“ also for Burglary and House Breaking ; and
“ also for returning from Transportation ; by Jo-
“ nathan Wild.” This list contained the names of thirty-five for robbing on the high-way; twenty-two for house-breaking ; and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following *Nota Bene*.

“ Several others have been also convicted for the
“ like crimes, but, remembering not the persons
“ names who had been robbed, I omit the crimi-
“ nals names.

“ Please to observe, that several others have
“ been also convicted for shop-lifting, picking of
“ pockets, &c. by the female sex, which are ca-
“ pital crimes, and which are too tedious to be
“ inserted here, and the prosecutors not willing
“ of being exposed.

“ In regard therefore of the numbers above
“ convicted, some, that have yet escaped justice,
“ are endeavouring to take away the life of the
“ said

“ JONATHAN WILD.”

The prisoner being put to the bar, he request-
ed that the witnesses might be examined apart,
which was complied with. Henry Kelly de-
posed that by the prisoner’s direction he went, in

company with Margaret Murphy, to the prosecutor's shop under pretence of buying some lace; that he stole a tin box, and gave it to Murphy in order to deliver to Wild, who waited in the street for the purpose of receiving their booty, and rescuing them if they should be taken into custody; that they returned together to Wild's house, where the box being opened was found to contain eleven pieces of lace; that Wild said he could afford to give no more than five guineas as he should not be able to get more than ten guineas for returning the goods to the owner; that he received, as his share, three guineas and a crown, and that Murphy had what remained of the five guineas.

Margaret Murphy was next sworn, and her evidence corresponded in every particular with that of the former witness*.

Catherine Stetham, the elder, deposed that between three and four in the afternoon of the 22d of January, a man and woman came to her house pretending that they wanted to purchase some lace; that she shewed them two or three parcels, to the quality and price of which they objected: and that in about three hours after they had left the shop, she missed a tin box containing a quantity of lace, the value of which she estimated at 50*l*.

The prisoner's council observed that it was their opinion he could not be legally convicted because the indictment positively expressed that *he stole* the lace *in* the house, whereas it had been proved in evidence that he was at a considerable distance when the fact was committed. They admitted that he might be liable to conviction as an acces-

* Margaret Murphy was executed on the 27th of March, 1728, for stealing plate.

lary before the fact, or guilty of receiving the property, knowing it to be stolen, but conceived that he could not be deemed guilty of a capital felony unless the indictment declared (as the act directs) that he did *assist, command, or hire*.

Lord Raymond presided when Wild was tried, and in summing up the evidence his Lordship observed that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond all dispute; but that as a similar case was not to be found in the law books it became his duty to act with great caution; he was not perfectly satisfied that the construction urged by the council for the crown could be put upon the indictment; and as the life of a fellow-creature was at stake, recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the jury, who brought in their verdict NOT GUILTY.

Wild was indicted a second time for an offence committed during his confinement in Newgate. The indictment being opened by the council for the crown, the following clause in an act passed in the 4th year of Geo. I. was ordered to be read.

“ And whereas, there are divers persons who
 “ have secret acquaintance with felons, and who
 “ make it their business to help persons to their
 “ stolen goods, and by that means gain money
 “ from them, which is divided between them
 “ and the felons whereby they greatly encourage
 “ such offenders. Be it enacted, by the authority
 “ aforesaid, that wherever any person taketh mo-
 “ ney or reward, directly or indirectly, under
 “ pretence, or upon account of helping any per-
 “ son or persons to any stolen goods or chattels,
 “ every such person so taking money or reward as
 “ aforesaid, (unless such person do apprehend, or
 “ cause to be apprehended, such felon who stole
 “ the same, and give evidence against him) shall

“ be guilty of felony, according to the nature of
 “ the felony committed in stealing such goods
 “ and in such and the same manner, as if such
 “ offender had stolen such goods and chattels, in
 “ the manner, and with such circumstances as the
 “ the same were stolen.”

Catherine Stetham deposed to the following effect: “A box of lace being stolen out of my shop, on the 22d of January, I went in the evening of the same day to the prisoner’s house, in order to employ him in recovering my goods; but not finding him at home, I advertised them, offering a reward of fifteen guineas, and saying no questions should be asked. The advertisement proved ineffectual: I therefore went again to the prisoner’s house, and by his desire gave the best description that I was able of the persons I suspected to be the robbers; and promising to make enquiry after my property, he desired me to call again in two or three days. I attended him a second time, when he informed me that he had learnt something concerning my goods, and expected more particular information in a short time. During this conversation we were joined by a man, who said he had reason to suspect that one Kelley, who had been tried for circulating plated shillings, was concerned in stealing the lace. I went to the prisoner again on the day he was apprehended, and informed him that though I had advertised a reward of no more than fifteen, I would give twenty or twenty-five guineas, rather than not recover my property; upon which he desired me not to be in too great a hurry, and said the people who had the lace were gone out of town, but that he would contrive to foment a disagreement between them, by which means he should be enabled to recover the goods on more easy terms. He sent me
 word,

word, on the 10th of March, that if I would attend him in Newgate, and bring ten guineas with me, the goods should be returned. I went to the prisoner, who desired a person to call a porter, and then gave me a letter, saying it was the direction he had received where to apply for the lace. I told him I could not read, and gave the letter to the man he had sent for, who appeared to be a ticket porter. The prisoner then told me I must give the porter ten guineas that he might pay the people who had my goods, otherwise they would not return them. I gave the money, and the man went out of the prison; but in a short time he returned with a box sealed up: though it was not the box I lost, I opened it, and found all my lace, excepting one piece. I asked the prisoner what satisfaction he expected; and he answered, Not a farthing; I have no interested views in matters of this kind, but act from a principle of serving people under misfortune. I hope I shall be soon able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the ten guineas, and perhaps cause the thief to be apprehended. For the service I can render you, I shall only expect your prayers. I have many enemies, and know not what will be the consequence of this imprisonment."

The prisoner's council argued, that as Murphy had deposed that Wild, Kelley, and herself were concerned in the felony, the former could by no means be considered as coming within the description of the act on which the indictment was founded; for the act in question was not meant to operate against the actual perpetrators of felony, but to subject such persons to punishment as held a correspondence with felons.

The council for the crown observed that from the evidence adduced no doubt could remain of
the

the prisoner's coming under the meaning of the act, since it had been proved that he had engaged in combinations with felons, and had not discovered them.

The judge recapitulated the arguments inforced on each side, and was of opinion that the case of the prisoner was clearly within the meaning of the act; for it was plain that he had maintained a secret correspondence with felons, and received money for restoring stolen goods to the owners, which money was divided between him and the felons, whom he did not prosecute. The jury pronounced him guilty, and he was executed at Tyburn, on Monday the 24th of May, 1725.

Wild, when he was under sentence of death, frequently declared that he thought the service he had rendered the public in returning stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great as justly to entitle him to the royal mercy. He said, that had he considered his case as being desperate he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends, at Wolverhampton, to intercede in his favour; and that he thought it not unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction who had recovered their property through his means. It was observed to him, that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious that he had not inforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge against those who had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and being asked whether he knew the cause there-

thereof, he said he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons, and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blueskin.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account of his infirmities, and saying, that there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect, but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked the Ordinary the meaning of the words, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," and what was the state of the soul immediately after its departure from the body? He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely to repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the Ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered he enquired of the Ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans who had put a period to their own lives were so honourably mentioned by historians: He was informed that the most wise and learned heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in the station to which they had been appointed by the providence of Heaven; and that the christian doctrine condemned the practice of suicide in the most express terms.

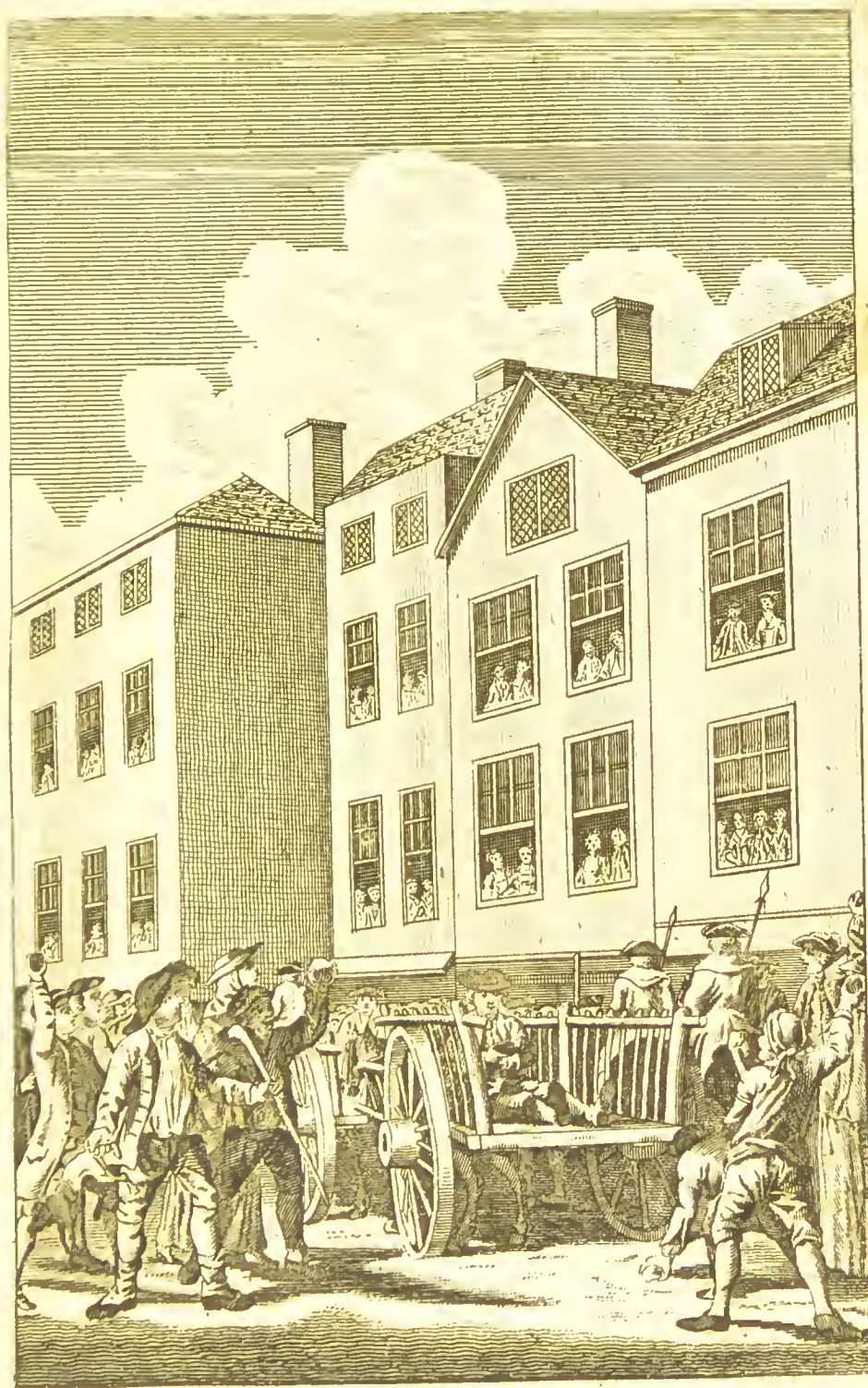
He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime: but about two in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life
by

by drinking laudanum: however, on account of the largeness of the dose and his having fasted for a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness, or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits that he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises, and taking him by the arms they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little, but he presently became exceedingly pale, then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum.

Though he was now somewhat recovered he was nearly in a state of insensibility, and in this situation he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c. and execrating him as the most consummate villain that had ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were, at length, so enraged at the indulgence shewn him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their de-



Jonathan Wild pelted by the Mob on his way to Tyburn



JONATHAN WILD.—*for various Offences.* 81

mands, and when he began to prepare for the execution, the popular clamour ceased.

About two o'clock on the following morning the remains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras Church-yard: but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up (for the use of the surgeons, as it was supposed.) At midnight a hearse and six was waiting at the end of Fig-lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

Wild had by the woman he married at Wolverhampton, a son about 19 years old, who came to London a short time before the execution of his father. He was a youth of so violent and ungovernable a disposition that it was judged prudent to confine him while his father was conveyed to Tyburn, lest he should create a tumult and prove the cause of mischief among the populace. Soon after the death of his father he accepted a sum of money to become a servant in one of our plantations.

Besides the woman to whom he was married at Wolverhampton, five others lived with him under the pretended sanction of matrimony; the first was Mary Milliner; the second Judith Nun, by whom he had a daughter; the third Sarah Grigson, alias Perrin; the fourth Elizabeth Man, who cohabited with him above five years; the fifth, whose real name is uncertain, married some time after the death of Wild.

History cannot furnish an instance of such complicated villany as was shewn in the character of Jonathan Wild, who possessed abilities, which had they been properly cultivated, and directed into a right course would have rendered him a respectable and useful member of society; but it is to be lamented that the profligate turn of mind that distinguished him in the early part of his life, dis-

posed him to adopt the maxims of the abandoned people with whom he became acquainted.

During his apprenticeship Wild was observed to be fond of reading, but as his finances would not admit of his buying books, his studies were confined to such as casually fell in his way; and they unfortunately happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed the ruin of both their bodies and souls. In short, at an early period of life he imbibed the principles of Deism and Atheism, and the sentiments he thus early contracted he strictly adhered to nearly till the period of his dissolution.

Voluminous writings were formerly beyond the purchase of persons in the inferior classes of life: but the great encouragement that has of late years been given to the publication of weekly numbers has so liberally diffused the streams of knowledge, that but few even of the lower ranks of mankind, can be sensible of any impediment to the gratification of the desire of literary acquirements*.

* It seems to be the general opinion that no periodical work has hitherto appeared so admirably calculated to promote universal knowledge as HOWARD'S NEW and COMPLETE DICTIONARY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. From the specimen that has been given in the numbers already published, it may be reasonably expected that this work will prove an invaluable acquisition to the public. The superfluities of former Dictionaries are carefully expunged; every improvement and discovery to be found in the works of foreign writers and those of our own nation, and an extensive variety of valuable materials furnished by the Royal-society, the Royal Academy, &c. are introduced

Wild trained up and instructed his dependants in the practice of villany, and when they became the objects of his displeasure he laboured with unremitting assiduity to procure their deaths. Thus his temporal and private interest sought gratification at the expence of every religious and moral obligation. We must conceive it to be impossible for a man acknowledging the existence of an Almighty Being to implore his attention upon devising the means of corrupting his fellow creatures, and cutting them off “even in the blossom” of their sins;” but the Atheist having nothing after this world either to hope or fear, is only careful to secure himself from detection, and the success of one iniquitous scheme naturally induces him to engage in others, and the latter actions are generally attended with circumstances of more aggravated guilt than the former.

There is a principle implanted in our nature that will exert itself when we are approaching to

duced; and by adopting a plan entirely New, which perfectly agrees with the energy and perspicuity of elegant composition, the Author will comprize the whole work in 150 numbers. This work is accurately printed in LARGE FOLIO on a fine paper and an entirely new letter; and the plates are beautifully finished from designs of the most capital artists. The plan of the New COMPLETE DICTIONARY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES is so comprehensive that it will include an universal system of knowledge rendered familiar to every capacity: and the subscribers may congratulate themselves on the possession of a book by a reference to which they may immediately acquire full information on any subject within the sphere of human comprehension.

a state of dissolution, and impress our minds with a full confidence in the existence of an eternal God, who will reward or punish us according to our desert or demerits. Thus it happened to the miserable subject of these pages, who when he had relinquished the hope of surviving the sentence of the law, anxiously enquired into the meaning of several texts of scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with such force that reflections became intolerable, and instead of repenting of his enormous crimes, he employed his last moments that were enlightened by reason (the distinguished characteristic of humanity) in meditating the means of self-destruction !

Narrative of the Lives, Trials, and Execution of EDWARD BURNWORTH, WILLIAM BLEWIT, EMANUEL DICKENSON, THOMAS BERRY, JOHN LEGEE, and JOHN HIGGS, who were hanged for Murder.

EDWARD BURNWORTH was the son of a painter in Moorfields, and served an apprenticeship to a buckle-maker in Grub-street; but he had not been long out of his time before he connected himself with a set of villains who subsisted by their depredations on the public.

Burnworth having distinguished himself by cudgel-playing, at a place in Moorfields, which was called the Ring, was thought to exceed all his dissolute companions in the practice of that vulgar exercise. He now commenced pick-pocket, and then by a very natural gradation, proceeded to the commission of foot-pad robberies and house-breaking.

In the exercise of his profession as a pick-pocket he used to frequent every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff-boxes, watches,

watches, handkerchiefs, pocket-books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison; but he found means to escape from thence, and renewed his former occupation: but he now proceeded with more circumspection than before, usually lounging about the fields near London during the day time, and returning to town at night in search of prey. On the whole, however, he was a remarkable daring villain, and constantly carried pistols about him to aid him to make a readier escape in case of detection.

Burnworth going into a public-house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him that Quilt Arnold (one of Jonathan Wild's men) who had been seeking him some days, was then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone; and presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavouring to injure his old acquaintance; for Arnold had heretofore been a brother thief. Burnworth now called for a glass of brandy, and putting some gun-powder in it compelled the other to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future.

Burnworth was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft: notwithstanding which he continued his practices till he committed the murder for which his life paid the forfeit; the particulars of which will be mentioned in the sequel of this account.

WILLIAM BLEWIT was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a perfumer of gloves; but before he had served above three years of his time he associated with ill company, and became a pickpocket and a house-breaker.

Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven

seven years ; and in consequence of this sentence was put on board a ship in the river, in company with several other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread ; and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship sailed for the Thames.

Blewit having heard of what was intended, discovered the plot to the captain of the vessel, who seized the implements, and gave Blewit his liberty, as a reward for the information*. Blewit was no sooner at large, than he returned to his old practices, in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate.

At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation : and being convicted, received sentence of death : but he pleaded the service he had done by preventing the escape of the prisoners in the river : on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America ; when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do ; but got into the company of Burnworth and his other companions.

IMMANUEL DICKENSON was descended of more reputable parents than any of his accomplices, his father being an officer in the army ; but dying while he was an infant, his mother was reduced to such extreme poverty that she was totally unable
to

* This is the exact account which is transmitted to us ; we must however confess it very extraordinary that the captain of a transport-ship could be authorized to give liberty to a felon once committed to his care.

to educate her children ; so that Emanuel and his three sisters took to irregular courses.

Dickenson was a pickpocket from his early youth, and continued that practice several years, but at length was taken into custody for stealing a gentleman's hat from his head in the Strand ; and being convicted, was sentenced to be transported. His mother, anxious to save him from the ignominy of being sent abroad as a felon, applied to a general officer, to exert himself in favour of her son. This the general did so effectually, that he obtained a pardon ; but Dickenson immediately renewed his own practices, in company with Burnworth, and the rest of the gang.

We have not been able to enquire any farther particulars of Berry, Legee, and Higgs, than that they had been thieves almost from their infancy, and continued their illicit practices till they were concerned in the crime for which their lives paid the forfeit, and of which we are now about to recite the particulars.

A gin-shop was kept in the Mint, Southwark, by a man named Ball, whose character was not superior to that of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himself a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnworth to be taken into custody. The latter, hearing of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of Ball, and engaged his accomplices in the execution of the plan : but the time previous to the commission of the murder was spent in the following manner.

Having passed the day in drinking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break open and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended : and this robbery was proposed more from motives of revenge than of gain.

Having broke open the house, they robbed it of what they thought a large quantity of plate, which they carried to Copenhagen-house;* but on examining the supposed treasure, they discovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River.

This being done, they spent the greatest part of the following day in drinking at different houses; and while they were thus carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace-officers were waiting for them in Chick-Lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, they kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their cloaths.

On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and having got as far as Turnmill-street, the keeper of Clerkenwell-Bridewell happening to see them, called to Burnworth, and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated; but the other assuring him that he intended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other miscreants waiting on the opposite side of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols.

This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered round them; on which Burnworth joined his companions, who now thought their safest plan would be to retreat towards the fields; wherefore they kept together, and facing the people, retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and
 swear-

* A public-house in the fields between Islington and Kentish Town, which was at that time a house of ill fame.

swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them.

In this way they retreated as far as Battle-Bridge, and then making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and going to Blackfriars, took a boat and crossed the Thames.

Having landed at the Bankside, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music-house, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute and abandoned characters. Having continued drinking some time at this house, they went into St. George's Fields, where Burnworth incited them to go to the house of Ball and murder him, on account of the threat that he had issued.

All the company except Higgs readily agreed to the perpetration of this enormous crime; but he said he would have no concern in murder: however, the others forced him with them, and it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, where Higgs waited at the door, while the rest went in.

Ball's wife told them he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did: and he no sooner got to the door of his own house, than Burnworth seized him, and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery in intending to betray his old acquaintance.

As the desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball trembled with apprehension for his life, and dropping on his knees, earnestly intreated that they would not murder him: but Burnworth, swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him dead on the spot, while he was thus begging for his life.

The murder was no sooner perpetrated than they all sallied forth into the street; when Blewit supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another pistol into the air, saying, "We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues:" thereby intimating that they had come out of the country, whither they had taken pistols for their protection.

Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed; but on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him, as they had done Ball; but Marjoram, (an old acquaintance whom they had picked up) interceded for his life; which was granted, on condition that, for the future, he should behave with greater courage.

They now cosed the l hames, and went to the Boar's-head Tavern in Smithfield, where, not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted into different gangs to commit separate robberies.

Some days after this Dickenson, Berry, and Blewit, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich, and sailed in the packet-boat, to Holland.

In the mean time Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but a particular circumstance occasioned his being taken into custody. Higgs's brother happening to meet the mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate going accidentally into a public-house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder; among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter

ter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watchman and two of the king's messengers being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate.

Still, however, Burnworth and some of his associates continued to defy the laws in the most open manner. Having stopped the earl of Harborough's chair, during broad day-light, in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair and knocked down one of the villains, while the earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight; but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them.

The number of atrocious violations of the law which now took place daily, alarmed all those who had a regard to order and good government; and the king issued a proclamation for apprehending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang.

Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public-house in Whitecross-street one night, when a gentleman went in, and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he apprehended that some of his accomplices would become an evidence if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before the lord-mayor.

By this time the evening was far advanced; on which Marjoram was lodged in the Compter for that night, and being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he

knew; and informing the lord-mayor that Legee lodged in Whitecross-street, he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day.

The circumstance of Marjoram having turned evidence being the public topic of conversation, John Barton, a fellow who had been some time connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and placing himself near Goldsmith's-Hall, took an opportunity, when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the lord-mayor, to fire at him; but Marjoram observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The suddenness of this action, and the surprize it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape.

About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London; but being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston in Surry. In the mean time Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamation issued to apprehend him.†.

A short time after Marjoram had given his information, Burnworth broke open the house of a distiller in Clare-market, and carried off a great number of bank-notes, in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody: but notwithstanding this he still appeared
at

† This circumstance proves that the police of those times was not equal to that of the present. If the spirit and activity of our present magistrates had been exerted, such an atrocious offender as Burnworth would not have escaped the hands of justice for three days.

at large, and gave the following, among other proofs of his audacity. - Sitting down at the door of a public-house in Holborn, where he was well known, he called for a pint of beer and drank it; holding a pistol in his hand by way of protection; he then paid for his beer, and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern.

At this time Burnworth kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execution.

Shrove-Tuesday being the day appointed, the men waited at a public-house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back-door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public-house for some beer: and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple; and in that moment the six men rushed in, and seized Burnworth, before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great-coat.

Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices were so infamously daring as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension: a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house; but this affair being communicated to the magistrates, some men were appointed

pointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts.

Burnworth, while in Newgate, projected the following scheme of escape: Some person having furnished him with an iron crow, he engaged some others of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung Psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing.

On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but when the jailors came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon before the criminals could be got out of the cells.

This scheme of Burnworth occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed into a room known by the name of the Bilboes, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison; but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained down to the floor of the condemned hold.

Application was made to the Secretary of State to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewit, who had gone over to Holland; and hereupon instructions were sent to the English ambassador at the Hague, empowering him to request of the States General that the offenders might be delivered up to justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction.

One of the king's messengers carried over these instructions; and the ambassador making the necessary application, orders were issued accordingly, in consequence of which Blewit was apprehended at a public-house in Rotterdam; but Dickenson and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewit was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship, and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement.

They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained, they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they arrived at the Nore, they were met by two of the king's messengers, who conducted them up the river; and these wretches observing a press-gang on the Thames, defied them to impress them; so hardened were they in guilt, and so thoughtless of their approaching fate.

On the arrival of the vessel which brought them, they were put into another boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded by three other boats, in each of which was a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot guards.

On sight of Burnworth they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland.

On

On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surry, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston. Nothing could equal the insolence of their behaviour on their leaving Newgate. They told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey. They likewise said to the dragoons, that they expected to be protected from injury on the road; and during their journey they behaved with equal indifference and insolence, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it.

A boy having picked up a halfpenny, one of a handful which Blewit had thrown among the people, told him that he would keep that halfpenny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston; on which Blewit gave him a shilling to pay the expence of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise; and it is affirmed that the boy actually did so.

On their arrival at Kingston they were put in the prison called the Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor; and on the following day bills of indictment being found against them, they were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond, and Judge Denton: but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he refused to plead unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead; but in vain; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death.

Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred,
three

three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast. The High Sheriff, who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead; to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavoured to kill himself by striking his head against the floor. Being brought into court, he was tried, and convicted with his companions.

They were no sooner convicted, than orders were given for their being chained to the floor; but in this deplorable situation they diverted themselves by recounting some particulars of their robberies to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies; but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in an hundred sheets of paper.

On passing sentence, the reverend judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape.

Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine to have made the keepers sleep: and if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration: but the keepers having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive.

A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers, that "If he did not see

“ him buried in a decent manner, he would meet
 “ him after death in a dark entry, and pull off
 “ his nose.”

When the day of execution arrived, the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way, Blewit saw a gentleman named Warwick, and having obtained permission to speak to him, most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him.

Blewit and Dickenson appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to such a fatal end.

Their devotions being ended, they were turned off, and after execution their bodies were brought to the new Gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewit were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Legee and Higgs were hanged on Putney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common: but representation being made to the people in power, that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country in Flanders, permission was given to his friends to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day.

Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty of course, when his accomplices were convicted: but in a few days afterwards, he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with his steel.

Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and being indicted for privately stealing, was con-

convicted, and received sentence of death; but in consideration of his having been the means of bringing the above mentioned atrocious offenders to justice, the sentence of death was changed to that of transportation.

Burnworth and his associates were hanged at Kingston, on the 12th of April, 1726.

Every attentive reader will make his own reflections on the conduct of these atrocious malefactors. We may observe, in their case, how association in wickedness hardens the mind, and how one crime leads to another, till murder crowns the horrid catalogue of vices !

It would be almost an affront to our readers even to caution them against the commission of crimes so horrid : but one useful and short lesson cannot be too often impressed on the minds of youth :—**AVOID BAD COMPANY.** Nothing leads so readily or so certainly to destruction !

The Life, Trial, and Execution of CATHERINE HAYES, who was burnt for Petit-Treason ;—also of THOMAS BILLINGS, who was executed for Murder ;—and the Life, Trial, &c. of THOMAS WOOD, who was condemned for the same Murder, but died before the day of Execution.

THE case of these malefactors is of so extraordinary a nature, and made so much noise in the world, that we shall be the more explicit in our account of them. Indeed the affair is too remarkable to be ever forgotten.

Mrs. Hayes's maiden name was Hall, being the daughter of a poor man of that name who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her

parents till she was about fifteen years old; and then having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of going to London.

Her person being rather engaging, some officers in the army meeting with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters, at Great Ombersley, in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time. There is every reason to believe, that Billings was her son, and that his birth was the consequence of that unlawful connexion.

After the officers grew tired of her company she strolled about the country, till arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer in Warwickshire, the farmer's wife hired her as a servant. When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place; which was managed in the following manner: Catherine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got it he set out, and meeting his sweetheart at a place they had agreed on, they went to Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated.

At this time it happened that the officers by whom she had been seduced, were at Worcester; and learning that the marriage had taken place, they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army.

Thus situated, he was compelled to send an account of the transaction to his father, who thereby became acquainted with the marriage sooner than he would otherwise have been. The father,
though

though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct: but the magistrate threatening to commit them to prison if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately obtained his liberty.

The elder Hayes, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceeding; but considering that what was passed could not be recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unavoidable event.

Old Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself: and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony: but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a restless disposition, prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catherine followed him thither: but he had not been long there before his father procured his discharge: but as it happened in the time of war, it was attended with an expence of 60*l*.

Young Hayes and his wife being returned home, the father gave them an estate of ten pounds per annum, to which he afterwards added another of sixteen pounds, which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support.

Hayes bore the character of an honest, well-disposed man. He treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition: but he had much more reason to have complained of her; for she

was

was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours.

The elder Mr. Hayes, observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him : but such was his attachment to her, that he could not leave her ; and at length she persuaded him to come to London, after they had been married about six years.

On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let into lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges*.

Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country ; the chief pleasure of her life consisting in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours ; and indeed, her unhappy disposition discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of great tenderness and respect ; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog.

At length her husband finding that she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham-

* At this period the business of pawnbroking was not regulated, as it has been of late years ; but every one followed the trade at pleasure.

Court-Road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn-Road, - since called Oxford-Road.

In this situation he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till having acquired a decent competency, he left off house-keeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot. Thomas Billings, a journeyman taylor, of whom we shall speak more hereafter, lodged in the same house. It is needless to tell the reader the connection that subsisted between Billings and Mrs. Hayes: but Mr. Hayes having gone into the country on business, his wife and her supposed son indulged themselves in every species of extravagance.

When Hayes returned, some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance; on which he severely censured her conduct, and a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before his fatal exit.

She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live longer with her husband: and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, among which one was, "that he was an atheist." Billings resisted her arguments for some time, but at length complied, unhappily both for himself and for her.

At this period Thomas Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country, and being apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to
use

use his interest in procuring him some employment.

After a few days residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of murdering his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed.

In answer to this reply she urged the following arguments: that, "it would be no crime to kill
" such an atheistical person, who had no religion
" or goodness; that he was himself a murderer,
" having killed a man in the country, and like-
" wise two of his own children, one of which he
" had buried under a pear-tree, and the other
" under an apple-tree:" and she likewise said, that her husband's death would put her into possession of fifteen hundred pounds, of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder.

Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good-humour.

Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity.

This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and, on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be
a good

a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated.

The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime of so black a dye as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him ; and this too at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for the launching into eternity.

Mrs. Hayes had now recourse to her former arguments, urging that it would be no sin to kill him ; and Billings seconding all she said, and declaring that he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to become one of the execrable butchers.

Having thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half a guinea for six bottles of wine, which being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer.

Having drank a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted ; and at length finished the whole quantity ; but not being then in an absolute state of stupefaction, Mrs. Hayes sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with some difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed.

When it was known that he was asleep, his wife told her associates that was the proper time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. No sooner had she said this, than Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently that he fractured his skull.

At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow, made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billing's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him.

A woman named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication: and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, child, and herself. Catherine had a ready answer hereto: She said some company had visited them, and were grown merry; but they were on the point of taking their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied.

The murderers now consulted how they should dispose of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood.

This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but notwithstanding all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning: though at
that



*Catherine Hayes assisting Wood & Billings in cutting
of the head of John Hayes.*

that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife and washed it.

When the head was cut off, the infernal woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones: but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames. in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and sink.

This being agreed to, the head was put in the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood: but making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered that her husband was going a journey, and, with incredible dissimulation, affected to take her leave of him, and, as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour.

By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the Horse-ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the Dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream; but in this they judged amiss, as the tide was now ebbing.

It happened at this time that a lighterman was in his vessel, and heard something fall into the Dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects: and the murderers having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers;

and she sat on the bed-side, while they lay down, till the morning.

The above transactions passed on the first of March, and on the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman named Robinson was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and looking into the Dock observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head, and observing the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part.

The lighterman said that he had heard something thrown into the dock; and the magistrates and parish officers assembled, and gave strict orders that the most diligent search should be made after the body; but that was not found till some time afterwards, as will appear in the sequel.

When the murderers had conversed together some time on the disposal of the body, Mrs. Hayes proposed that it should be put into a box, and buried, and the other parties agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which, on being sent home, was found too little to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, and all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and putting them in two blankets, carried them out of the house unnoticed, and threw them into a pond near Marybone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door to them.

In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed;





John Hayes's head exposed in St. Margarets church yard.

ed; after which it was put on a pole in the Church-yard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public.

Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it. The high constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might, on the following night, be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night, and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs.

The head being exposed on the pole, in the manner we have mentioned, so greatly excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people of all ranks went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the king's organ-builder, who having looked at it with great attention, said he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted: and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto she said that her husband was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble; on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair.

A journeyman taylor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth-street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master, on his return, that he was confident it was the head of Hayes;

Hayes; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned, perfectly of the same opinion.

Now it happened that Billings worked at this very shop; on which one of the men observed that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him.

On the following day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of cloaths which had belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow on the Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of cloaths, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got: to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, a suit of cloaths he had borrowed of an acquaintance.

On the second day after the commission of the murder, Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mrs. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town; when the latter said that the public conversation was wholly engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's Church-yard. Hereupon Catherine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day.

Wood coming from Harrow on the Hill on the following day, Catherine told him that the head was found, and giving him some other cloaths that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money.

After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon, named Westbrook, was desired to put it in a glass of spirits to prevent its putrifying, and keep it for the farther inspec-

inspection of all who chose to take a view of it : and this was accordingly done.

Very soon after the perpetration of the horrid crime Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also, at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her, and she continued to supply them with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband.

A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond : which bond Catherine finding among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal.

Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the money on condition that the bond was sent into the country ; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place.

In the mean time incredible numbers of people resorted to see the head, and among the rest a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it was that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption

sumption that the cloaths might help her to ascertain it.

Mr. Hayes not being seen for a considerable time, his friends could not help making enquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him. Catherine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence to him, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret; "Some time ago (said she) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr. Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance; but he not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he absconded."

This method of accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her if the head that had been exposed on the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby enquiring to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone, she said to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him.

The whole of this story seemed highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, who went to a Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them that Mr. Longmore should call on Catherine, and have some conversation: but not let her know that Ashby had been with

with him; for they supposed that by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact.

Accordingly, Longmore went to Catherine, and enquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Longmore replied that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. “No,” (she replied) “it is much worse than that.” “Why,” (said Longmore) “has he murdered any one?” To this she answered in the affirmative; and desiring him to walk into another room, told him almost the same story as she had done to Mr. Ashby, but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he had retired to Hertfordshire, and, in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself.

It was now remarked by Mr. Longmore that it was imprudent for him to travel thus armed, as he was liable to be taken up, on suspicion of being a highwayman; and if such a circumstance should happen, he would find it no easy matter to procure a discharge.

She allowed the justice of this remark, but said that Mr. Hayes commonly travelled in that manner. She likewise said that he was once taken into custody, on suspicion of being a highwayman, and conducted to a magistrate; but a gentleman who was casually present happening to know him, gave bail for his appearance. To this Longmore observed that the justice of peace must have exceeded his authority; for that the law required that two parties should bail a per-

son charged on suspicion of having robbed on the highway.

In the course of conversation, Mr. Longmore asked her what sum of money her husband had in his possession. To which she replied that he had seventeen shillings in his pocket, and about twenty-six guineas sewed within the lining of his coat. She added that Mrs. Springate knew the truth of all these circumstances, which had induced her to pay that woman's rent at the former lodgings, and bring her away.

Mrs. Springate being interrogated by Longmore, averred the truth of all that Catherine had said, and added that Mr. Hayes was a very cruel husband, having behaved with remarkable severity to his wife: but Mr. Longmore said this must be false, for to his knowledge, he was remarkably tender and indulgent of her.

Longmore went immediately to Mr. Ashby, and said that from the difference of the stories Catherine had told them, he had little doubt but that poor Hayes had been murdered: and when they came to compare all the circumstances of the two tales, neither of them entertained much doubt of the fact.

Hereupon they determined to go to Mr. Eaton, who was one of the life-guards, and nearly related to the deceased, and to communicate their suspicions, and the grounds thereof, to him; but Eaton happening to be absent from home, they agreed to go again to Westminster, and survey the head with more care and attention than they had hitherto done.

On their arrival, the surgeon told them that a poor woman from Kingsland had, in part, owned the head as that of her husband; but she was not
so

so absolutely certain as to swear that it was so ; and that they were very welcome to take another view of it. This they did, and agreed in opinion that it was actually the head of Hayes.

On their return, therefore, they called at Eaton's house, and took him with them to dine at Mr. Longmore's, where the subject of conversation ran naturally on the supposed discovery they had made. A brother of Mr. Longmore, coming in at this juncture, listened to their conversation, and remarked that they proposed that Mr. Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes, at the expiration of two or three days, and make enquiries after her husband, similar to those which had been made by the other gentlemen.

To this Longmore's brother urged his objections, observing that as they had reason to think their suspicions so well founded, it would be very ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape if they should hear they were suspected : and as Wood and Billings were drinking with Mr. Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody.

This advice appeared so reasonable, that all the parties agreed to follow it ; and going soon afterwards to justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions, and the reasons on which they were founded.

Hereupon the magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of Catherine Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Sprin-gate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the murder of John Hayes : and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person.

Hereupon, having procured the assistance of two officers of the life guards, and taking with him the several gentlemen who had given the information, they went to Mr. Jones's, the distiller, (Mrs. Hayes's lodgings) about nine o'clock at night.

As they were going up stairs without any ceremony, the distiller desired to know by what authority they made so free in his house; but Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, no farther opposition was made to their proceedings.

The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane, on which she said, "Who is there?" and he commanded her to open the door immediately, or it should be broke open. To this she replied, that she would open it as soon as she had put on her cloaths: and she did so in little more than a minute; when the justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody.

At this time Billings was sitting on the side of the bed, bare-legged; on which Mr. Lambert asked, if they had been sleeping together: to which Catherine replied "No," and said that Billings had been only mending his stockings. On this the justice observed that his sight must be extremely good, as there was neither fire nor candle in the room when they came to the door.

Some of the parties remaining below, to secure the prisoners, Mr. Longmore went up stairs with the justice, and took Mrs. Springate into custody; and then they were all conducted together to the house of Mr. Lambert.

This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of any thing respecting the murder, they were separately

rately committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr. Lambert and other magistrates. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gatehouse, Billings to New-Prison, and Mrs. Hayes to Tothill-Fields Bridewell.

When the peace-officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catherine to her examination; she earnestly desired to see the head: and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's, and no sooner was the head shewn to her, than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head!" "It is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass in her arms, and shed many tears while she embraced it.

Mr. Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass, that she might have a more perfect view of it, and be certain that it was the same. The surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected, and having kissed the head several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair: and on Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit; and on her recovery she was conducted to Mr. Lambert's, to take her examination with the other parties.

It happened that on the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Marybone, they observed something lying in a ditch, and taking a nearer view of it, they found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body.

Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts
of

of the body wrapped in a blanket ; but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices ; a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt.

Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence : but the magistrates, paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate, whither she was followed by immense numbers of people, whose execrations testified the sense they entertained of her crime.

Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Springate till he should be taken into custody.

On the morning of the next Sunday he came on horseback to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged when the murder was committed ; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither, and enquired for her ; but the people knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder, were disposed to take him into custody ; but their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so.

Unwilling, however, that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green Dragon in King-street on a visit, (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore,) and they sent a person with him, to direct him to the place. The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder.

Being immediately delivered to the custody of some constables, they conducted him to the house
of

of justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination ; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell, for farther examination.

On his arrival at the prison, he was informed that the body had been found : and not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he confessed the several particulars we have already recited, and signed his confession.

It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence ; but as his surrender was not voluntary, and as his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man acknowledged that since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitations.

His commitment was made out for Newgate ; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace agitated on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob ; wherefore it was thought prudent to procure a guard of a serjeant and eight soldiers, who conducted him to prison with their bayonets fixed.*

A gen-

* To the credit of the humanity of modern times, the calling in the assistance of the military on these occasions is no longer necessary. However we abhor the crimes, we insult not the criminal ; and a few peace-officers are found sufficient to conduct the offender to prison.

A gentleman named Mercer, having visited Mrs Hayes in Newgate, the day before Wood was taken into custody, she desired he would go to Billings, and urge him to confess the whole truth, as the proofs of their guilt were such, that no advantage could be expected from a farther denial of the fact. Accordingly the gentleman went to Billings, who being carried before justice Lambert, he made a confession, agreeing in all its circumstances with that of Wood; and thereupon Mrs. Springate was set at liberty, as her innocence was evident from their concurrent testimony.

Numbers of people now went to see Mrs. Hayes in Newgate: and on her being asked what could induce her to commit so atrocious a crime, she gave very different answers at different times; but frequently alledged that Mr. Hayes had been an unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person who knew the deceased.

But there is one inexplicable mystery in the history of this woman. She called Billings her son, and sometimes averred that he was really so, but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know any thing of the birth of such a child. To some people she would affirm that he was the son of Mr. Hayes, born after marriage: but that his father having an aversion to him while an infant, he was put to nurse in the country, and all farther care of him totally neglected on their coming to London. But this story is altogether incredible, because Hayes was not a man likely to have deserted his child to the frowns of fortune; and his parents had never heard of the birth of such a son.

Billings

Billings was equally incapable of giving a satisfactory account of his own origin. All he knew was that he had lived with a country shoemaker, who passed for his father, and had sent him to school, and then put him apprentice to a taylor. If one might hazard a conjecture on this occasion, one would suppose that Billings was the natural son of Mrs. Hayes, born in consequence of her illicit connection with the military officers, as mentioned in the beginning of this narrative.

Be this as it may, it is probable that she discovered him to be her son, when she afterwards became acquainted with him in London: and it is not impossible that his real father might maintain him while he passed as the son of a shoemaker named Billings; or that his mother might have made remittances for his support: but few people will doubt of his being the real son of Mrs. Hayes, who reflect how readily he agreed to her first proposal of murdering her husband.

Indeed some persons, who came from the same part of the kingdom, said that Billings was found in a basket near a farm-house, and supported at the expence of the parish. If this story be true, it may be presumed that he was dropped in that manner by his unnatural mother.

It now remains to say something of Thomas Wood, who was born near Ludlow in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry. He was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct when a boy, as to be very much esteemed by his neighbours. On the death of his father, his mother took a public-house for the support of her children, of whom this Thomas was the eldest; and he behaved so dutifully to his mother that the loss of her husband was scarcely felt.

He was equally diligent abroad and at home; for when the business of the house was insufficient to employ him, he worked for the farmers, by which he greatly contributed to the support of the family.

On his growing to years of maturity he engaged himself as a waiter at an inn in the country, from whence he removed to other inns, and in all his places he preserved a fair character. At length he came to London, but being afraid of being impressed (as we have already mentioned) obtained the protection of Mr. Hayes, who behaved in a very friendly manner to him, till the arts of a vile woman prevailed on him to embrace his hands in the blood of his benefactor.

Before the trials of these malefactors (who were separately confined) Mrs. Hayes frequently sent for Billings to her apartment, and the affectionate regard with which she treated him confirmed the general opinion that she was his mother. How strange is it, that a mother could instigate a son to the perpetration of so dreadful a crime!

Billings and Wood, having already made confessions, and being penetrated with the thought of the heinous nature of their offence, determined to plead guilty to the indictments against them: but Mrs. Hayes having made no confession, flattered herself that there was a chance of her being acquitted, and therefore resolved to put herself on her trial, in which she was encouraged by some people that she met with in Newgate.

The malignancy of the crime with which she was charged induced the king to direct his own council to carry on the prosecution against her; and these gentlemen made use of all their oratory to convince the court and jury that the most striking example should be made of one who had so wil-

wilfully and obstinately defied the laws of God and man.

The indictment being opened, the witnesses were called. Our readers will know the substance of their depositions from the preceding narrative; and the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, in the manner above stated, found her guilty.

The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt, and alledged that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow: but she was informed by the court that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with. Billings and Wood urged that, having made so full and free a confession, they hoped they should not be hanged in chains: but no answer was made to what they said on this subject.

After conviction, the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout. He prepared himself for eternity by every act of genuine penitence and unfeigned contrition.

While he was confined in the condemned hold he was seized with a violent fever, and being attended by a clergyman to assist him in his devotions, he confessed that he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed: but he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law.

At particular times Billings behaved with sincerity; but at others, prevaricated much in the answers to the questions that were asked him. On the whole, however, he fully confessed his guilt; acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and said that no punishment could be adequate to the excess of the crime of which he had been guilty.

The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was not such as might have been hoped for from so atrocious an offender. She had an intention of destroying herself; for which purpose she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the intended design.

On the day of her death she received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. Billings was executed in the usual manner, and then hung in chains, not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Marybone-Fields.

When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women are burnt for petit-treason, it is customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner; so that they are dead before the flames reach the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing the faggots from her, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations.

Though other faggots were thrown on her, she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes, in less than three hours.

This singular mode of her death became as much the subject of public conversation as her life had been; and many letters were published in the news-papers on the occasion. One party insisted that she had been thus executed in consequence of private orders from the people in power,



Valeis sculp.

Catherine Hayes burnt for the murder of her husband.

er, founded on the shocking circumstances of aggravation which attended her crime; while other people contended that the sheriff had given orders that the law should be thus rigorously executed. But a third party insisted that neither of these were the fact; but that the flames reaching the hands of the executioner, he was compelled to let go the rope for his own safety; and indeed this seems the more probable opinion; for, enormous as her crime was, it is not customary in England to exert, but rather to abate, the full rigour of the law.

The above-mentioned malefactors suffered at Tyburn, on the 9th of May, 1726.

One would hardly have imagined that so serious, so melancholy a business as the murder of which we have recited the particulars, should have afforded matter of mirth or wit; yet an anonymous punster of those times published the following ballad, which he called

A SONG on the Murder of Mr. HAYES.

(To the Tune of Chevy Chase.)

I.

IN Tyburn-Road a man there liv'd
A just and honest life,
And there he might have lived still,
If so had pleased his wife.

2.

But she to vicious ways inclin'd,
A life most wicked led,
With taylors and with tinkers too
She oft defil'd his bed.

3.

Full twice a-day to church he went,
And so devout would be,
Sure never was a faint on earth,
If that no faint was he !

4.

This vex't his wife unto the heart,
She was of wrath so full,
That finding no hole in his coat,
She pick'd one in his scull.

5.

But then her heart 'gan to relent,
And griev'd she was so fore,
That quarter to him for to give,
She cut him into four.

6.

All in the dark and dead of night,
These quarters she convey'd,
And in a ditch near Marybone,
His marrow-bones she laid.

7.

His head at Westminster she threw,
All in the Thames so wide;
Says she, my dear, the wind sets fair,
And you may have the tide.

8.

But Heav'n, whose pow'r no limits know
On earth, or on the main,
Soon caus'd this head for to be thrown
Upon the land again.

9.

This head being found, the justices
 Their heads together laid;
 And all agreed there must have been
 Some body to this head.

10.

But since no body could be found,
 High mounted on a shelf,
 They e'en set up the head to be
 A witness for itself.

11.

Next, that it no self-murder was,
 The case itself explains,
 For no man could cut off his head,
 And throw it in the Thames.

12.

Ere many days had gone and past,
 The deed at length was known,
 And Cath'rine she confess'd at last,
 The fact to be her own.

13.

God prosper long our noble king,
 Our lives and safeties all,
 And grant that we may warning take
 By Cath'rine Hayes's fall.

More than one lesson of morality, and even of religion, may be gathered from a due consideration of this melancholy story. Young Hayes's marrying without the consent of his parents seems to have laid the first foundation of his ruin. Hence let young people learn to feel the force of the
 fifth

fifth commandment: for if this youth had so far "honoured his father and his mother," as even to have consulted them on so important a change of life, it is probable they would have advised him against marrying their servant-maid, by which he would have escaped the unnatural death that afterwards befel him.

Mrs. Hayes appears to have been a woman of the most violent passions, as is evident by her fomenting quarrels among her neighbours wherever she lived: yet these passions ended only in the most dreadful and ignominious death. From this part of her history we should learn the necessity of keeping a constant guard on our passions, which are useful when kept under restraint, but highly prejudicial when indulged to an excess.

It is probable that Mr. Hayes would not have been murdered in the manner he was, had he not drank to such an excess; for one or more of his intended murderers might have repented of the proposed scheme; or if they had held their resolution of carrying it into execution, he would, if sober, have been able to have made some resistance, and the people of the house might have saved him from the intended violence. Hence the virtue of sobriety is inculcated in a very forcible manner.

The pains taken by the murderers to conceal their crime, by throwing the head into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried away by the tide; their hiding the body in a distant part; the diligence used by the magistrates, and other peace officers, for the apprehension of the offenders; and the variety of other circumstances that led to their apprehension and conviction, are but so many strong proofs how difficult it is to conceal the crime of murder.

Wood's excellent character in the former part of life; with the difficulty with which he was tempted to take a part in this horrid crime, should teach us how important it is to maintain a good character once acquired, and inspire us with resolution never to forget the force of that prayer, "Lead us not into temptation."

The whole of this shocking narrative will shew that a deviation from the path of duty in a wife, and the want of gratitude in those who are under obligations to others, may lead to the most fatal consequences.

Particular Account of ANTHONY DRURY, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for committing a Robbery on the Highway.

THIS offender was a native of Norfolk, and the son of parents in reputable circumstances, who imprudently neglected to bring him up to any business, so that when he arrived at years of maturity he wandered about the country curing smoaky chimneys, which procured him the appellation of the smoaky doctor, among those who knew his profession.

At length he married a woman who was said to possess a very considerable fortune: but whatever this fortune was, Drury never received more of it than 500*l*. He now lived some years with his wife, at Andover; but occasionally ranged the country in search of that business in which he seemed to place his chief delight. His wife used every argument to prevail with him to remain at home; but her solicitations were without effect.

Sometimes he would strolc to London, and bring with him valuable articles for his support: and on one of these occasions he pawned some plate for twenty pounds, and dissipated the money in company with women of abandoned character.

By degrees he stripped his wife of great part of what should have supported her, so that she was obliged to the friendship of her relations for a maintenance. By a continued course of extravagance he grew daily more and more vicious, and at length determined to commence highwayman.

In London he made an acquaintance with Robert King, the driver of the Bicestcr waggon. This King was a fellow of most execrable character, whose practice was to inform the highwaymen when he had any persons to travel in his waggon*, who possessed any considerable sum of money or valuable effects, that they might be robbed on the road; on which occasions a share was always given to the driver.

Drury being in company with this King, the latter told him that a gentleman named Eldridge would travel in the waggon on the following day, and that it would be prudent to rob him before he got far from town, as he would have with him a very considerable booty.

Our adventurer listened eagerly to this tale, and the next day robbed Mr. Eldridge of two hundred and fourteen guineas. As he took money only, he had very little apprehension of detection: but another traveller in the waggon happening

* Formerly people of great property used to travel in waggons; but the frugal manners of our ancestors are abolished; and post-chaises and flying machines take place of the other carriages.

pening to know him, repaired to London and gave information against him; whereupon he was taken into custody, and being brought to his trial, was convicted on full evidence.

After he received sentence of death his behaviour was consistent with his unhappy situation. He was a regular attendant on divine worship, and a constant peruser of books of religion: but at the same time he did every thing in his power to procure a respite of the fatal sentence.

Some people of consequence exerted themselves to obtain the royal mercy for Drury, but in vain: his character and crime militated too forcibly against him.

After conviction he repeatedly wrote to his wife, desiring her to come to London, and among other motives to prevail on her, told her that she might redeem the plate which he had pawned: but all he could say had no effect; she lent a deaf ear to all his entreaties.

He appeared to be greatly disturbed in mind at this unfeeling indifference of his wife, which prevented that calmness of disposition which was requisite for his proper preparation for his approaching exit.

Two days before his death he received the sacrament with every mark of real contrition. On the evening preceding his execution, a gentleman sent a woman to enquire what declaration he would make respecting the waggoner; to whom he answered, that he had no idea of committing the crime till King proposed it to him; and that his life was sacrificed in consequence of his taking that advice.

When at the place of execution he appeared to possess more courage than he had done some time before, and again declared that the waggoner had

seduced him to commit the robbery. He earnestly exhorted young people to avoid bad company, as what would most infallibly bring them to destruction.

This malefactor suffered at Tyburn, on the third of November, 1726 ; at the age of 28 years.

The matters chiefly to be observed in this case are the readiness with which Drury took the hint of the waggoner to rob Mr. Eldridge, and the baseness of King in giving that hint. Drury seems to have thought to have escaped detection by robbing the gentleman of money only : but vice is generally off its guard, and is often detected by means that human prudence could neither foresee nor prevent.

The infamy of King was greater, if possible, than that of the highwayman. The man who violates the trust with which he is charged is one of the basest of villains. He must be universally detested ; and indeed he deserves universal detestation. We are not informed what was the future fate of this King ; but there can be no doubt but that he lived miserable, and died unlamented.

Of all the doctrines to be impressed on the minds of servants, that of fidelity to their masters is one of the most important. It is interwoven with their duty to God, and makes a part of that very duty. The man who is unfaithful to the trust reposed in him by his earthly master, renders himself unworthy of the favour and protection of his Father who is in Heaven.



An Account of the remarkable Trials of RICHARD SAVAGE, JAMES GREGORY, and WILLIAM MERCHANT: with some curious Anecdotes of the Life of Mr. *Savage*.

IN the month of December 1727, Richard Savage, James Gregory, and William Merchant were indicted at the Old Bailey for the Murder of James Sinclair. Savage by giving him a mortal wound with a drawn sword in the lower part of the belly; and Gregory and Merchant by aiding Savage in the commission of the said murder.

Mr. Nuttal deposed that the prisoners came to Robinson's Coffee-House, near Charing cross, between one and two o'clock in the morning of the 21st of November, when Merchant entering first, kicked down the table, and Savage and Gregory drawing their swords, Mr. Nuttal desired them to put them up, but they refused to do so.

A scuffle now ensued, in which Mr. Sinclair received a mortal wound, and was heard to say, "I am a dead man;" soon after which the candles were extinguished.

Another witness deposed that as he and some other company were on the point of leaving the house, the prisoners came in, when Merchant kicked down the table, and Gregory going up to the deceased said, "D— ye, you rascal, deliver your sword;" on which swords were drawn, and the deceased wounded as above-mentioned: that the deceased had his sword drawn when the wound was given by Savage: but that he held it with the point down towards the ground: but neither this deponent nor the former observed that Merchant had any sword.

There

There were several other witnesses to prove the fact: but it may be now proper to mention how it happened that the parties accused came to the house where it occurred. Mr. Savage had a lodging at Richmond, and another at London: and having come to town to pay off the latter, and casually meeting with Gregory and Merchant, two gentlemen with whom he had been acquainted for some time past, they went to a coffee-house, where they drank till late in the evening. Savage would have engaged a bed at the coffee-house, but there not being accommodations for him, he and his friends went into the street, proposing to spend the night as they could, and in the morning to walk to Richmond.

Strolling about, they saw a light in Robinson's Coffee-house, into which they entered, and the fatal consequence ensued that we have already recited.

The perpetrators of this rash action having left the house, some soldiers were sent for, by whom they were taken into custody, and lodged in the round-house; and in the morning were carried before a magistrate, who committed them to the Gatehouse; but Mr. Sinclair dying on the following day, they were sent to Newgate.

The deceased was attended by a clergyman, who declared that he said he was stabbed before he had time to draw his sword; and this testimony was confirmed by that of other witnesses.

When the evidence was summed up, the court observed to the jury, that, "As the deceased and
 " his companions were in possession of the room,
 " if the prisoners were the aggressors by coming
 " into that room, kicking down the table, and
 " immediately thereupon drawing their swords
 " with-

“ without provocation, &c. it was murder, not
 “ only in him who gave the wound, but in those
 “ who aided and abetted him.”

Several persons of distinction appeared in behalf of the prisoners, and gave them the character of good-natured, quiet, and peaceable men: but in answer hereto it was observed by the court, that, “ As to the characters of the prisoners, good
 “ character is of weight where proof is doubtful,
 “ but flies up when put in the scale against plain
 “ and positive evidence: and as to the sudden-
 “ ness of the action—where there is a sudden
 “ quarrel, and a provocation is given by him
 “ who is killed, and where suddenly and mutu-
 “ ally persons attack each other and fight, and
 “ one of them is killed in the heat of blood, it
 “ is manslaughter. But were one is the aggress-
 “ for, pursues the insult, and kills the person at-
 “ tacked, without any provocation, though on a
 “ sudden, the law implies malice, and it is mur-
 “ der.”

After a trial of eight hours the jury found Savage and Gregory guilty of murder, and Merchant guilty of manslaughter, in consequence of which the latter was burnt in the hand and discharged.

On the 11th of December 1727, Richard Savage and James Gregory were brought to the bar with other capital convicts, to receive sentence of death; and being asked, in the customary manner, what they had to say why judgment should not be passed on them, Mr. Savage spoke as follows:

“ It is now, my lord, too late to offer any thing
 “ by way of defence, or vindication: nor can we
 “ expect ought from your lordships, in this court,
 “ but the sentence which the law requires you as
 “ judge

“ judge to pronounce against men of our calamitous condition.—But we are also persuaded, that as mere men, and out of this seat of rigorous justice, you are susceptible of the tender passions, and too humane, not to commiserate the unhappy situation of those whom the law sometimes perhaps—exact—s—from you to pronounce sentence upon.

“ No doubt you distinguish between offences, which arise out of premeditation, and a disposition habitual to vice or immorality, and transgressions, which are the unhappy and unforeseen effects of a casual absence of reason, and sudden impulse of passion: we, therefore, hope you will contribute all you can to an extension of that mercy, which the gentlemen of the jury have been pleased to shew Mr. Merchant, who (allowing facts as sworn against us by the evidence) has led us into this calamity.

“ I hope this will not be construed as if we meant to reflect upon that gentleman, or remove any thing from us upon him, or, that we repine the more at our fate, because he has no participation of it: no, my lord! for my part, I declare nothing could more soften my grief, than to be without any companion in so great a misfortune.”

The king having been graciously pleased to grant a pardon to Messrs. Savage and Gregory, they were admitted to bail on the 20th of January 1728, in order to their pleading that pardon; and accordingly, on the 5th of March following, they pleaded to the said pardon, and were set at liberty.

Mr. Savage was at the same time one of the most ingenious and most unfortunate of the human race. He was a natural son of the countess
of

of Macclesfield, by captain Savage, who was afterwards earl of Rivers. While his mother was pregnant with him she told lord Macclesfield that the child of which she should be delivered was not his, but that captain Savage was the father of it.

Incensed at this declaration, lord Macclesfield preferred a bill in the house of peers, and obtained a divorce, in consequence of an act passed for that purpose : but the lady's fortune, which was very considerable, was reserved to her own use. Soon after the divorce, the countess married captain Savage ; and the unfortunate subject of this narrative was born on the 10th of January, 1697.

This extraordinary affair greatly excited the attention of the polite world : but the mother of Mr. Savage behaved in such a manner as will for ever entail infamy on her memory. She conceived a hatred for her child from the moment of his birth : and resolving that the witness of her shame should not remain in her presence, she put him out to nurse with a poor woman in the country, with positive directions that he should be brought up as her own son, and not be acquainted who were his real parents.

This trust was faithfully discharged by the nurse ; and when young Savage was eight years of age he was placed at the Grammar-school of St. Alban's ; and though earl River's made repeated enquiries after him, he could not learn what was become of him : but he had taken care to have his right name registered in the parish books of St. Andrew, Holborn.

When the earl was on his death-bed he was more anxious than ever to know what was become of his son, that he might bequeath him part of a good estate which he left among his natural children :

dren: but the unfeeling mother then assured him that the boy was dead.

When Savage had attained the age of fifteen years, his nurse died, and on examining her papers he came to understand the mystery of his birth, and the contrivances that had been carried on to conceal his real origin.

About this time he was advised, by his mother's private directions, to put himself apprentice to a shoemaker; but this he absolutely refused to do, though he was then almost in want of the common necessaries of life.

Reduced to this uncomfortable situation, it was very natural for him to apply to his mother: but though he made repeated efforts to be admitted to her presence, she refused to see him; nor would she answer any of the letters which he wrote to her.

It now became absolutely necessary that he should do something for his support; on which he turned his thoughts to poetry, and wrote several pieces which were published in the newspapers.

At the age of eighteen he wrote a comedy, which he offered to the managers of the playhouse in Lincoln's-Inn Fields: but this not being thought sufficiently perfect for representation, Savage reaped no benefit from it; though it was soon afterwards altered by Mr. Bullock the comedian, who brought it on the stage in the year 1716, under the title of "Woman's a Riddle;" when it was acted with some share of applause.

About two years after this, Savage wrote a Comedy called "Love in a Veil," which was performed at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane: but as it was brought out late in the season, the profits arising from the representation were but a
poor

poor compensation for the trouble of writing it, and bringing it on the stage. Both the plays above-mentioned were founded on Spanish plots.

Though Savage was in some measure disappointed in his expectation of profit from the last play, yet it procured him connections that were of some service to him. A gentleman of considerable rank, and of eminence in the literary world, proposed that Savage should marry his natural daughter, and intended to have given him a handsome fortune with her; but the malice of his enemies defeated this scheme, by propagating a report that Savage had traduced the gentleman and his wife; so that the intended father-in-law would scarcely admit our unfortunate author to his presence. His mother was supposed to be the contriver of this plot.

But Savage met with two good patrons in Aaron Hill, Esq. and Mr. Wilks, the celebrated comedian. These gentlemen procured him a pension of fifty pounds a year, which was presumed to have come from his mother; and her reason for allowing him this pension is accounted for in the following manner.

Mr. Savage being in circumstances of distress, his friends advised him to publish his poems by subscription; and preparations being made for this purpose, he had treated his mother with great freedom in the preface to the intended volume. This circumstance being made known to the countess, the sentiment was made on him, and the preface was suppressed: but the book was published, in the dedication to which, to Lady Mary Wortley Montague, is the following remarkable sentence: "Nature seems to have
" formed my mind as inconsistently as fortune
" has my conditions. She has given me a heart

“ that is as proud as my father’s, to a rank of.
 “ life almost as low as the humanity of my
 “ mother !”

When Mr. Savage was in circumstances of great distress he wrote the following lines addressed to his mother ; and which have been admired as an instance of the pathetic.

Hopeless, abandon’d, aimless and oppress’d,
 Lost to delight, and every way distress’d,
 Cross his cold bed, in wild disorder thrown,
 Thus sigh’d Alexis, friendless and alone—
 Why do I breathe ? what joy can Being give,
 When she who gave me life, forgets I live ?
 Feels not these wintry blasts—nor heeds my smart,
 But shuts me from the shelter of her heart !
 Saw me expos’d to want ! to shame ! to scorn !
 To ills !——which make it misery to be born !
 Cast me, regardless, on the world’s bleak wild :
 And bade me be a wretch, while yet a child !
 Where can he hope for pity, peace or rest,
 Who moves no softness in a mother’s breast ?
 Custom, law, reason, All my cause forsake,
 And nature sleeps, to keep my woes awake.
 Crimes, which the cruel scarce believe can be,
 The kind are guilty of, to ruin me !
 Even she who bore me, blasts me with her hate,
 And meant my fortune, makes herself my fate !
 Yet has this sweet neglecter of my woes,
 The softest, tenderest breast that pity knows !
 Her eyes shed mercy, wheresoe’er they shine ;
 And her soul melts at every woe——but mine.
 Sure then, some secret fate, for guilt unwill’d,
 Some sentence, pre-ordain’d to be fulfill’d,
 Plung’d me thus deep in sorrows searching flood,
 And wash’d me from the memory of her blood.

But

But O ! whatever cause has mov'd her hate,
Let me but sigh in silence at my fate :
The God within, perhaps, may touch her breast ;
And when she pities, who can be distress'd ?

In the year 1724 Mr. Savage wrote his tragedy called “ Sir Thomas Overbury,”* which was acted at Drury-Lane Theatre, himself performing the principal character with considerable applause. In a dedication to this play the author acknowledges his obligations to Aaron Hill, Esq. who wrote the prologue and epilogue to it.

Mr. Savage resided in the latter part of his life at Bristol, where he died in very reduced circumstances.

The crime of which the above-mentioned gentlemen were convicted was of a very atrocious nature ; yet Mr. Savage was always celebrated for the meekness and humanity of his nature. This shews, in a striking manner, the bad consequence that may arise from keeping irregular hours, and going to houses of ill fame ; for Robinson's Coffee-House bore that character. Though the gentlemen, when they went into the house, might have no ill intentions, we see what fatal consequences arose ; probably, in a great measure, the effect of intoxication. Hence, then, we may learn the great importance of a life of sobriety : and that when reason is once drowned in liquor, the man degenerates into something lower than a brute.

The unnatural conduct of Mr. Savage's mother is no way to be accounted for. She did not seek

* This tragedy was revived with alterations, and acted with applause, in the winter of the year 1777.

seek to hide her shame, first by concealing her son, and afterwards by keeping him a beggar; for she had avowed the crime she had been guilty of, and a divorce from her husband had followed. She seems to have possessed a most unfeeling heart, and there is a mystery in her conduct which it is not in the power of language to explain.

One important lesson, however, may be learnt from her behaviour.—The fair sex will see the inestimable value of the virtue of CHASTITY. If the Countess of Macclesfield had not been unfaithful to the bed of her husband, she would not have been the mother of a son, whom she left exposed to all the miseries that were the consequence of a proud heart joined to an humble fortune; nor would she have entailed perpetual infamy on her own memory!

A Compleat Narrative of the Proceedings of
EDWARD BELLAMY, who was hanged for a
Burglary.

THIS malefactor was chiefly distinguished by the number of his robberies, and the dexterity with which he executed them. He was a native of London, and served his time to a taylor: but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated with some women of ill fame, and became a thief in order to support their extravagance.

His commencement in the art of theft was with a number of young pickpockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step further. They used to

go, three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one of them cheapened some article of small value, his companions used to secrete something of greater.

It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and forcing up the windows of shops with a chissel, run off with any property that lay within their reach. This was commonly done so suddenly, that the thieves got off with the effects before the shop-keepers were prepared to follow them.

Bellamy was so dextrous at these practices, that he was looked upon as leader of the gang: but when he had followed this infamous business about three years, he forged * a note by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery, he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party.

In a short time after he left Newgate he made connections with Jonathan Wild, and by a frequent attendance at his office, dived so far into the mysteries of his profession, and was so convinced of the great profit that attended it, that he formed an idea of engaging in the same business on his own account.

At this time Wild used frequently to borrow money of a Mr. Wildgoose, who kept an inn in Smithfield: and Bellamy wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose; but this
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* Forgery was not at that time a capital offence.

the famous thief-taker absolutely refused; on which Bellamy determined to take his revenge on Wild.

Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being well acquainted with the hand-writing of the former, he forged a draught on the latter for ten guineas, which Wildgoose paid without hesitation; and as soon as Bellamy had got the money he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office.

It happened that, a few days after this transaction, Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draught for the above-mentioned sum, and producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own hand-writing, otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draught. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name; but, by the description of his person, Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender.

The consequence was that Bellamy was soon found in a lodging in White friars, and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would come and give orders how they should dispose of him: but, in the interim, Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage of the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three stories high.

He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity if he should
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be re-apprehended: but before he had proceeded in this negotiation, Wild's men seized him at a gin-shop in Chancery-lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer that they might give him his liberty, on the condition that he should come to the office, and adjust the business with himself.

Hereupon Bellamy was discharged: but knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public-house in the Old-Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him: and the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and no farther steps were taken in the affair.

As soon as this business was adjusted, Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies: but before we recite the particulars of them we shall mention the following trick, which is remarkable on account of its singularity.

Bellamy walking near the Royal-Exchange, fell into company with a kidnapper, one of those rascals who obtain an infamous subsistence by enticing distressed young people to go abroad, under pretence that they will be there well provided for. Bellamy thinking this fellow a proper subject to employ his genius, pretended that he was out of employment, and ambitious of visiting America.

The kidnapper represented America as the country where industry and merit could not fail of success, even to the attainment of an ample fortune; saying, "I have helped many young peo-

“ple to places, who were out of employment, who
 “are now so rich that they keep their carriages. I
 “am not a mean, time-serving wretch, who takes
 “money for these things : but all my view is to be
 “of service to the distressed.”—In this instance
 the kidnapper intended to gull the thief, and the
 thief to take in the kidnapper.

Bellamy having lived some time at the expence
 of his new acquaintance, the day at length arrived
 when his indentures were to be signed, as the ship
 in which he was to embark was on the point of sail-
 ing. There were other young fellows who were to
 be bound ; and when they came to the magistrate’s
 the kidnapper recollected that he had left some pa-
 pers behind him, and desired Bellamy to go back
 for them. He did as directed ; and told the man’s
 wife that her husband wanted two guineas to pay
 the expence of indenturing the people who were
 with him. The woman readily delivered the mo-
 ney, with which Bellamy decamped, and the kid-
 napper saw no more of him.

The following is an account of the principal
 robberies committed by Bellamy and his com-
 panions ; and a relation of their attempts to
 commit some robberies, in which they did not
 succeed.

Bellamy and one of his gang having broken the
 fast of a silversmith’s shop in Russel-court, Drury-
 lane, a person who lay under the compters fired a
 blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to de-
 camp without their booty. This attempt failing,
 they went to the house of another silversmith,
 which they broke open, and finding the servant-
 maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into
 silence, and carried off effects to a large amount.

Not long after this robbery they broke open
 the shop of a grocer near Shoreditch, in the ex-
 pectation

pectation of finding cash to a great amount: but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about ten pounds of tea, and the loose money in the till.

Their next attempt was at the house of a hosier in Widegate-alley, from whose shop they carried off some goods of value, which they sold to the Jews on the following day.

Bellamy and some of his fraternity made an attempt to break open the shop of a linen-draper in Bishopsgate-street on a Sunday evening; when a woman who had watched their motions, knocked at the door just as they had effected an entrance: which obliged them to decamp with the utmost precipitation.

On the same night they attempted to break into a toy-shop in Swithin's-alley, Cornhill: and had wrenched the bars from the windows, when the shutters suddenly falling, the family was alarmed and their scheme frustrated. Yet, notwithstanding this, as soon as the neighbourhood was quiet, they went back to the same alley, and broke open the house of a shoemaker, whence they stole a great number of shoes, and plate to a large amount, which they disposed of to the Jews on the following day.*

Bellamy and his associates having broke open the shop of a barber in George-Yard, Lombard-street, found very little that they thought worth

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* The Jews are the most notorious receivers of stolen plate, and consequently the greatest encouragers of housebreakers in this kingdom. If we had a law to make the receiving of stolen goods a capital offence the property of honest housekeepers would be much more secure than at present.

their notice, and therefore carried off all the wigs ; but not being able to sell them to any advantage, they took them to the King's-Bench, and gave them away to the debtors.

Soon afterward's they broke into a shoemaker's shop in Eastcheap, and stole a number of shoes, which they packed in a bag ; but a watchman observing them, they dropped their ill-gotten prize, knocked him down, and effected their escape.

From the shop of a silversmith in Bride-lane they carried off plate to the amount of fifty pounds ; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate-street, a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to the Jews.

On another occasion they broke open a tea-shop near Gray's-Inn-Lane ; having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chissels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within hearing them, cried out thieves ! on which they ran off without their booty.

Having broke into a tea-warehouse near Aldgate, they had packed up a valuable parcel of goods, when the maid-servant came down stairs, undressed, and without a candle. Having gone into the yard, she returned, without knowing that they were in the house : but when she came into the shop Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lay on the floor, while they went off with their booty : and the same night they broke open the shop of a mercer in Bishopsgate-street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount.

Their next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames-street. The watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him, and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having
kept

kept him till they were ready to go off with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to throw him in, if he would not throw in his lanthorn and staff. It need not be said that the poor man was obliged to comply with their injunctions.

Soon after this they stole a large sum of money and a quantity of goods from the house of a grocer, which they broke open in Aldersgate-street. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains.

Their next exploit was at an old cloaths shop kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article; and after this they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman-street, and took away goods to the amount of seventy pounds, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold them to their old acquaintance, the Jews.

They were disappointed in their next attempt, which was to break open the house of a linen draper in Westminster: for some people coming up before they had compleated their operations, they were obliged to decamp with precipitation.

On the evening after this transaction, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's Church-Yard, they made it fast with a cord on the outside, and throwing up the sash, stole a very large number of silk handkerchiefs, while a woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door: and they stole a variety of plate, wearing apparel and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn.

Soon after this they stole goods to the amount of twenty pounds from a house which they broke open in Red-Lion-street; and breaking another
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the same night in Fullwood's-Rents, obtained about an equal booty.

While they were thus rendering themselves the mere pests of society, they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester-fields, for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects; but she having, on one occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate; and while she was gone with it to a silversmith, he broke open her drawers, and carried off her cash to a large amount.

His next adventures were the breaking open a house in Petticoat-lane, and another in Grocer's-alley in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes: and soon afterwards he stopped a man near Houndsditch, and robbed him of his money.

At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth-street: but by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villainies, that a reward of 100*l.* was offered for the apprehending him, in consequence of which he was taken, near the Seven-Dials, on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

For this last fact he was tried, convicted, and received sentence; and after his conviction he wrote a narrative of his robberies, from which the above account is taken.

From the time of conviction till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he affected a chearfulness of behaviour, and said that he would be
hanged

hanged in his shroud: but the certainty that he should suffer, and the sight of his coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind: and he received the sacrament a few days before his death, with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 27th of March, 1728, and just before he was turned off made a speech to the surrounding multitude, of which the following is a copy.

“ Gentlemen,

I AM brought here to suffer an ignominious death, for my having wilfully transgressed against the known laws of God and my country; I fear there are too many here present who come to be witnesses of my untimely end, rather out of curiosity than from a sincere intention to take warning by my unhappy fate; you see me here in the very prime of my youth, cut off like an untimely flower in a rigorous season, through my having been too much addicted to a voluptuous and irregular course of life, which has been the occasion of my committing these crimes for which I am now to suffer.

As the laws of God as well as men call upon me to lay down my life, as justly forfeited by my manifold transgressions, I acknowledge the justice of my sentence; I patiently submit to the same, without any rancour, ill-will or malice to any person whatsoever, hoping through the merits of Christ Jesus (who laid down his life for sinners, and who upon the cross pronounced a pardon for the repenting thief under the agonies of death) to be with him admitted to partake of that glorious resurrection and immortality he has been so graciously pleased to promise to the sincere

cere penitent. I earnestly exhort and beg of all here present to think seriously of eternity, a long and endless eternity! in which we are to be rewarded or punished according to our good or evil actions in this world: that you will all take warning by me, and refrain from all wilful transgressions and offences; let a religious disposition prevail upon you, and use your utmost endeavours to forsake and flee from sin.

The mercies of God are great, and he can save even at the last moment of life; yet do not therefore presume too much, lest you provoke him to cast you off in his anger, and you become fearful examples of wrath and indignation.

Let me prevail upon you to forget and forgive me all the offences and injuries I have either committed or promoted in action, advice, or example: and entreat your prayers for me, that the Lord would in mercy look down upon me, in the last moments of my life.

This malefactor made a rapid, and, what some would call a successful, progress in vice. It will be observed that his robberies were very numerous, and followed very fast on each other. But what was the event of the whole?—That event which as naturally follows the perpetration of such crimes, as the shadow does the substance: all his artifices tended but to his ruin—to disgrace, ignominy, and death.

We hope that the fate of this man will be an additional caution to the many already given to young people, to shun those paths which lead to inevitable destruction. The following words of the poet will be applicable on this occasion.

Why

Why should I deprive my neighbour
Of his goods against his will?
Hands were made for honest labour,
Not to plunder or to steal.

'Tis a foolish self-deceiving
By such tricks to hope for gain:
All that's ever got by thieving
Turns to sorrow, shame, and pain.

Oft we see a young beginner
Practice little pilfering ways
'Till grown up a hardened sinner;
—Then the gallows ends his days.

Account of the very singular Case of MARGARET DICKSON, who was hanged for Murder, but recovered after Execution.

THIS woman was the daughter of poor parents, who lived at Musselburgh, about five miles from Edinburgh, and brought up their child in the practice of religious duties, and also instructed her in such household business as was likely to suit her future station in life.

The village of Musselburgh is almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carry them to Edinburgh, and procure a subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city.

When the woman of whom we are writing arrived at years of maturity she was married to a fisherman, to whom she bore several children:

but there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and during his absence from Scotland, his wife had an illicit connection with a man at Muffelburg, in consequence of which she became pregnant.

It was heretofore customary in Scotland that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister: and there have been several instances of the infant being destroyed; because the mother dreaded to submit to this public exposure*: for such was the malice of the Scotch women, that those would go to church to be witnesses to the frailty of a sister, who would not go on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs. Dickson averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied though there was every appearance that might warrant the discrediting what she said. At length, however, she was delivered of a child: but it is uncertain whether it was born alive or not.

Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the goal of Edinburgh. When her trial came on, several witnesses deposed that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved, that there were signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found near the place of her residence.

A surgeon deposed that putting the lungs of the infant into water, they were found to swim; which

* This seems to prove, in a very striking manner, the value of our Foundling Hospital in London, which has, doubtless, been the occasion of saving the lives of great numbers of helpless infants, who would otherwise have been destroyed.

which was deemed a proof that the child had been alive: for it was a received opinion that if no air be ever drawn into the lungs, they will not swim: but this circumstance is a matter of doubt even among the gentlemen of the faculty: however, the jury giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of *Guilty*, in consequence of which she was doomed to die.

After her condemnation she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband; but she constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. She owned that the fear of being exposed to the ridicule of her neighbours in the church, had tempted her to deny that she was pregnant; and she said that, being suddenly seized with the pains of child-birth, she was unable to procure the assistance of her neighbours: and that a state of insensibility ensued, so that it was impossible she should know what became of the infant.

At the place of execution her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration. She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins.

After execution her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin, and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place: but the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care stopped to drink at a village called Pepper-Mill, about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and uncovering it, the woman immediately

mediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off with every sign of trepidation.

It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public house, had recollection enough to bleed her; and in about an hour she was put to bed: and by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the court has been executed can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated: and it is likewise held that the marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party: which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion.

Mrs. Dickson then being convicted and executed as abovementioned, the king's advocate could prosecute her no farther; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Justiciary against the sheriff, for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publicly a few days after she was hanged; and she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alledged crime. She was living as late as the year 1753. This singular transaction took place in the year 1728.

The observation to be made on this uncommon affair amounts to no more than a lesson of caution to juries to be careful how they convict the culprit on circumstantial evidence: for the evidence against this woman was at best but circumstantial; and her steady denial of her guilt after her wonderful escape from the grave, is a strong presumptive argument that she was not guilty.

Account

Account of JAMES CARNEGIE, Esq, who was tried for the Murder of LORD STRATHMORE, and acquitted.

MR. CARNEGIE was a gentleman of fortune, whose estate being contiguous to that of Charles Earl of Strathmore, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between the parties, which was encreased by the similitude of their political sentiments; both of them being favourers of the claims of the Pretender.

Lady Auchterhouse, who was sister to Mr. Carnegie, having invited some of the neighbouring gentry to visit her, there went among the rest John Lyon, Esq. a young gentleman who paid his addresses to another sister of Mr. Carnegie. Mr. Lyon's view in this visit was to ask Carnegie's consent to the match; but this the latter absolutely refused, and abused Lion with so much scurrility, that a quarrel ensued, and swords were drawn by both parties. The Earl of Strathmore, anxious to prevent bloodshed, exerted all his influence to reconcile the contending parties, and at length so far succeeded that all animosity seemed to have subsided, and the company sat down and drank together, as if no quarrel had arisen.

The conversation now took a political turn; and as the company were of different sentiments, high words of altercation arose: and the king and the pretender were abused in a manner equally illiberal.

At length the passions of the parties were so inflamed that they had recourse to blows, and some of them quitting the house, among whom were Lyon and Carnegie, the former pushed the latter on the ground, which enraged him so much that he
arose

arose and drew his sword, but Lyon had consulted his safety by flight. Carnegie followed him a little way, but falling in the pursuit, was lifted up by some of the company, when turning about with the fury of a madman, he ran his sword into the body of Lord Strathmore.

This melancholy event had no sooner taken place than the company returned to Lady Auchterhouse's, except the Earl of Strathmore, who was carried home, and died soon after.

A neighbouring magistrate being informed of what had happened, went to the house and demanded the gentlemen's swords, which were delivered; but Mr. Carnegie having been concealed under some flax in an outhouse, he required that Lady Auchterhouse should tell where he was, which she did, and the magistrate having received his sword, sent him to the prison of Forfar.

Some weeks afterwards he was removed, to be tried before the Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh; which is somewhat similar to our Court of King's Bench in England*.

On the trial it was proved that Lyon had behaved in the most insulting manner to Carnegie, who did not draw his sword till he had been pushed down, as above-mentioned. It was likewise proved that Lord Strathmore had lived on terms of the utmost friendship with Mr. Carnegie: and that, on other occasions, when the latter had been insulted by Lyon, the Earl had protected him.

A witness swore that Mr. Carnegie had proposed Lady Strathmore's health when in company, and that

* There are no grand Juries in Scotland. The king's advocate draws the indictment: the judges determine if the crime be capital; and the fact is tried by a petit jury.

that he sat next the Earl. It was sworn also that Carnegie, since his confinement, had regretted the melancholy issue of the quarrel, as it had deprived him of one of his most valuable friends, and a person whom he could have had no thought of injuring.

Another evidence deposed that the behaviour of Mr. Lyon to Mr. Carnegie was insupportably aggravating: that he had pushed him on the breast, and otherwise ill-treated him: and that he seized Lady Auchterhouse by the hand, and struck it so violently on the table, that she cried out through the extremity of pain.

On the other hand, one of Lord Strathmore's servants swore that Mr. Carnegie stabbed his master *twice* in the belly: but the surgeon that examined the wound gave a more favourable account of the matter than the servant.

The trial lasted a considerable time, when the jury, considering on the whole matter, gave a verdict that the prisoner was not guilty. These transactions took place in the month of July, 1728.

This unfortunate affair seems to have arisen principally from a difference in political sentiments, when the parties were probably heated with liquor; and it will therefore afford a lesson equally forcible against the crime of intoxication, and the folly of quarrelling with any man because he may be of a different opinion from ourselves.

The man who deprives himself of the use of his reason by swallowing immoderate quantities of liquor, is destroying his own health, while he is wasting the bounties of providence: and he is frequently in the high road to the commission of a greater crime than he may have any idea of:

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for numerous have been the instances of murder, which have been the direct consequence of intoxication. For this reason then, amidst a thousand others, let the high value of the virtue of sobriety be impressed upon the mind.

With regard to disputes on political matters, they are almost always idle and unavailing. People imbibe their sentiments of this kind from the bias of their education, and the instructions given them by their parents : and every man has a right to think as he pleases of the measures of government, provided he lives in peace, and in a dutiful submission to the laws.

We cannot conclude this article better than in the words of an honest dissenter, who being in company with a zealous member of the church of England, who would have quarrelled with him on the difference of their religious sentiments ; “ No ! no ! my worthy friend (said he,) you and “ I will AGREE TO DIFFER.”

Full Account of JOHN EVERETT, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for robbing on the Highway.

THIS malefactor was a native of Hitchin in Hertfordshire, and had been well educated ; his father possessing 300l. per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman ; but running away from his master he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of serjeant.

On the return of his regiment to England, Everett purchased his discharge, and repairing to London, bought the place of an officer of White-chapel Court, in which he continued about seven
years

years, but was obliged to abandon it through the following circumstance :

Having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, one Charlesworth, a solicitor of that court, caused him to be discharged, and then sued him for the amount of the debts of the parties to whom his inconsiderate good-nature had given their liberty.

To evade going to prison Everett enlisted in Lord Albemarle's company of foot guards; soon after his engaging in the army he fell into company with Richard Bird, with whom he had been formerly acquainted. This Bird hinted that great advantages might be acquired in a particular way, if Everett could be trusted: and the latter, anxious to know what the plan was, learnt that it was to go on the road: on which an agreement was immediately concluded.

Hereupon they set out on their expedition, and robbed several stages in the counties adjacent to London; from which they obtained considerable booty in jewels, money, and valuable effects.

Thus successful in their first exploits they went to Hounslow-Heath, where they stopped two military officers, who were attended by servants armed with blunderbusses; but they obliged them to submit, and robbed them of their money and watches: but the watches were afterwards left, according to agreement, at a coffee-house near Charing-Cross, and the thieves received twenty guineas for restoring them.

Soon after this they stopped a gentleman in an open chaise near Epsom. The gentleman drew his sword, and made several passes at them; yet they robbed him of his watch, two guineas, his sword, and some writings: but they returned the

writings, at the earnest request of the injured party.

These companions in iniquity made a practice of robbing the butchers and higlers on Epping Forest, on their way to London. One of these robberies was singular. Meeting with an old woman, a higler, they searched the lining of a high-crowned hat, which she said had been her mother's, in which they found about three pounds; but returned her hat.

Soon after this they stopped a coach on Hounslow-Heath, in which were two quakers, who calling them "Sons of violence," jumped out of the coach to oppose them: but their fellow travellers making no resistance, and begging them to submit, all the parties were robbed of their money.

Everett remarking that one of the quakers wore a remarkable good wig, snatched it from his head, and gave him in return an old black tye which he had purchased for half a crown of a Chelsea pensioner. This sudden metamorphose caused great mirth among the other company in the coach.

About ten days after this Everett and his companion walked to Hillingdon Common, where they watched some time for their prey, and permitted many persons to pass them; but seeing two gentlemen on horseback coming, Everett stopped the foremost and Bird the other, and robbed them of upwards of three guineas and their gold watches; and then they cut the girths of the saddle, and secured the bridles, to prevent a pursuit.

They now hastened to Brentford, where they heard of a pursuit after them, on which they got into the ferry to cross the Thames; and when they were three parts over, so that the river was fordable,

fordable, they gave the ferrymen ten shillings, and obliged them to throw their oars into the river. They then jumped overboard and got on shore, while the spectators thought it was only a drunken frolic, and the robbers got safe to London.

Some time after this Everett was convicted of an attempt to commit a robbery on the highway, for which he was sentenced for three years imprisonment in New Prison Clerkenwell, where, after some time, he was employed to act as turnkey, and his conduct meeting with approbation, he remained in that station after the term of his imprisonment was expired; but the keeper dying, he took a public-house in Turnmill Street.

He had not been long in this station, when a new keeper being appointed, he frequently called on him, and made him advantageous offers, on the condition of his re-assuming the office of turnkey. This he did; but when Everett had perfectly instructed him in the management of the prison, he dismissed him, without assigning any reason for so ungenerous a conduct.

Everett being now greatly in debt, was obliged to remove within the rules of the Fleet-prison, and took a public-house in the Old Bailey; after which he took the Cock Alehouse in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the warden of the fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison.

While in this station he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some mal-practices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate: but he obtained his liberty at the end of the sessions, as no bill had been found against him.

During his confinement, his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of above 300*l.* which reduced him to circumstances of great distress: yet he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment; but his character was such that no person would engage him.

Thus distressed, he once more equipped himself for the high-way, with a view, as he solemnly declared after sentence of death, to raise only fifty pounds, as his brewer would have given him credit if he could have possessed himself of that sum; but it will be found that he did not succeed in the rash enterprize.

Having stopped a coach on the Hampstead-Road, in which were a lady, her daughter, and a child about five years old, the child was so terrified at his presenting a pistol, that he withdrew it at the request of the lady, who gave him a guinea and some silver: but though he observed she had a watch, some gold rings, &c. yet he did not demand them.

Some company riding up, he was followed to the end of Leather-Lane, where he evaded the pursuit by turning into Hatton-Garden, and going into the Globe Tavern. Here he called for wine, and while he was drinking it he saw his pursuers pass; on which he paid his reckoning, and slipped to a public-house in Holborn, where he again saw them pass; but thinking himself now safe, he remained there a considerable time.

Concluding the pursuit at an end, he called a coach at the end of Brook-street, and driving to Honey-lane Market, he purchased a duck for his supper, and a turkey for his Christmas dinner; and then went to Newgate Market, where he lodged.

On

On the following day, one Whitaker (called the boxing drover) circulated a report that Everett had committed a high-way robbery: on which the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public-houses which he used to frequent; but not meeting with him, the perpetration of murder was happily prevented.

Gallantry seems to have been a striking feature in the character of Everett, of which the following instance may serve as an example.

A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate-Market had buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and children with decency. Everett repeatedly visiting the widow, was received with too great marks of esteem, and assisted her in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family.

The widow's son, jealous of this connection, remonstrated with his mother on the impropriety of her conduct, and told her it would end in her ruin. This made Everett and her more cautious in their meetings: but the son watched them with the utmost degree of vigilance and circumspection.

Having, one evening, observed them go into a tavern, he provided himself with a large and sharp knife, and going into the room where they were sitting, swore he would stab Everett to the heart: but the latter, by superiority of strength, disarmed him. The young fellow was at length persuaded to sit down, when Everett assured him that he entertained the utmost respect both for himself and his mother; but the youth answered that he was a liar, and the mutual destruction both of mother
and

and children must follow their unlawful connection.

As the lad grew warm, Everett affected great coolness and good humour, and considered how he might most readily get rid of so unwelcome a guest; for he did not intend to part with the widow till he had made a property of her.

At length Everett determined to make the young fellow drunk, and plied him with such a quantity of liquor that he fell fast asleep, in which condition he was left, while the other parties adjourned to a distant tavern, where they remained till morning, when Everett borrowed seven guineas of the widow, under pretence of repaying her in a week.

Not long after this our adventurer was married to this very widow, at Stepney Church, by which he came into possession of money and plate to a considerable amount, and might have lived happily with her if he would have taken her advice; but the extravagance of his disposition led to his ruin.

When Everett was in very low circumstances he casually met his old accomplice, Bird, and joining with him in the commission of a robbery in Essex, they were both taken, and lodged in Chelmsford Goal: and, at the next assizes, Everett turned evidence, in consequence of which the other was convicted and executed.

When this notorious offender had obtained his liberty, he committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington: but being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried, and capitally convicted.

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This malefactor had been married to three wives, who visited him after sentence of death. He was likewise visited by the son of the widow already mentioned; but recollecting what had formerly passed between them, Everett would have stabbed him with a penknife, but was prevented by the interposition of one of his wives; and in an account he wrote of his transactions, he expresses his happiness that he had been thus prevented from the commission of murder.

But what seemed more deeply to affect him than any other circumstance, was the crime of perjury, of which he had been guilty, with a view to take away the life of an innocent man. One Picket, a cooper, having affronted him, he swore a robbery against him; but the jury not being satisfied with the evidence, the man was acquitted.

Mr. Nicholson, the minister of St. Sepulchre's Church, attended the prisoner while under sentence of death; and kindly exerted himself to convince him of the atrocious nature of his offences: but the numbers of people who visited him from motives of curiosity, took of his attention from his more important duties. However, he was at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable.

The goal distemper having seized him while in Newgate, a report was propagated that he had taken poison, but this was totally false. He wrote letters to some of his acquaintance, begging they would take warning by his unhappy fate, and avoid those steps which led him to his ruin.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of February, 1729, after behaving in such a manner as induced the spectators to think that his penitence for his past crimes was unaffected.

We see, in this story, that Everett had for a long time escaped the punishment due to his repeated crimes, yet was at last detected, and brought to justice. We find that this offender got into credit, after he had committed several robberies on the highway; but when future misfortunes overtook him he had recourse to his former practices to replenish his purse.

Hence, then, we may learn how difficult a thing it is to abandon an habitual course of vice. We see, also, that though persons tempted to acts of dishonesty, may think to escape undetected, they only deceive themselves by such idle imaginations. They should remember that the eye of heaven is always open to view their conduct, and to direct the punishment for the offence.

Theft will not be always hidden,
 Tho' we fancy none can spy:
 When we take a thing forbidden
 God beholds it with his eye.

Remarkable Particulars respecting the Case of
 Major JOHN ONEBY, who was convicted of
 Murder, and afterwards killed himself.

THE father of this offender was an attorney of considerable practice; at Barnwell in Leicestershire, where his unfortunate son was born, in the year 1677.

Young Oneby was intended for the profession of the law; and his father having married the niece of Sir Nathan Wright, who was appointed lord keeper of the great seal, he applied to him,
 ear.

earnestly soliciting that he would exert his influence in favour of his son.

At this request Sir Nathan promoted him to be his train-bearer, no invaluable place; but greatly inferior to what the young gentleman's ambition had taught him to aspire to. However, he kept his place some time, in expectation of preferment; but failing in his views of promotion in this line, he bought a commission in the army.

He served under the duke of Marlborough in several campaigns in Flanders, and was promoted in the army as the reward of his military merit. While in winter quarters at Bruges, at the close of one of these campaigns, he had a quarrel with another officer, which occasioned a duel, and Oneby having killed the other, was brought to his trial before a court martial, which acquitted him of the murder.

The regiment being soon afterwards ordered to Jamaica, Mr. Oneby went with it, and during his residence at Port Royal, fought another duel with a brother officer, whom he wounded in so dangerous a manner that he expired after an illness of several months; but as he did not instantly die, no farther notice was taken of the affair.

The rank of major in a regiment of dragoons had been conferred on Mr. Oneby, in consequence of his services: but on the peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half pay.

Repairing to London, he frequented the gaming houses, and became so compleat a gambler that he commonly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee-house in Covent-Garden,

they all adjourned to the Castle-Tavern in Drury-Lane, where they went to cards. Mr. Hawkins, who was of the company, having declined playing, Mr. Rich asked if any one would set him three half crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by William Gower, Esq. who, in ridicule, laid down three halfpence.

On this major Oneby abused Gower, and threw a bottle at him; and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides; but Mr. Rich interposing, the parties were apparently reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion.

Gower seemed inclined to compromise the difference, saying that he was willing to adjust the affair, though the major had been the aggressor. In answer to this Oneby said he "would have his blood;" and said to Mr. Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied that "he was ready to answer if he had any thing to say:" to which Oneby said "I have another chap first."

Mr. Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning, soon after which Mr. Oneby arose, and said to Gower, "Harkee, young gentleman, a word with you;" on which they retired to another room, and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open the door, and on their entrance they found Oneby holding Gower with his left hand, having his sword in the right: and Mr. Gower's sword laid on the floor.

Before the company could part the combatants Gower dropped to the ground; but it was not imagined that he had been wounded, till blood was observed streaming through his waistcoat. On this one of the company said to the major
that

that he was apprehensive he had killed Mr. Gower; but the other replied, “No, I might have done it if I would; but I have only frightened him; but supposing I had killed him, I know what is to be done in these affairs; for if I had killed him to night, in the heat of passion, I should have had the law on my side; but if I had done it at any other time, it would have looked like a set meeting, and not a encounter.”

A surgeon of eminence having examined Mr. Gower's wounds, it was found that the sword of his antagonist had passed through his intestines, of which wound he died the following day; on which Mr. Oneby was apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

The circumstances above mentioned were stated on his trial; but some doubts arising in the minds of the jury, they brought in a special verdict, referable to the opinion of the twelve judges.

Mr. Oneby having remained in Newgate two years, and the judges not having met to give their opinion, he became impatient of longer confinement, and therefore moved the court of King's-Bench that council might be heard on his case.

Hereupon the prisoner was carried into court, by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus; and the record of the special verdict being read, the reverend bench, with great humanity, assigned him two council, a solicitor, and a clerk in court.

Lord chief justice Raymond, and three other judges, presided a few days afterwards, when the major being again brought-up, his council, as well as those for the crown, were heard; after which the lord chief justice declared that he would take an opportunity of having the opinion of the

other judges; and then the prisoner should be informed of the event.

The major, on his return to Newgate, gave a handsome dinner, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, to the persons who had the custody of him, and seeming to be in high spirits on account of the ingenious arguments used by his council, entertained little doubt of being discharged, and said he would spend the rest of his life in a military capacity.

After a considerable time the judges assembled at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, to bring the matter to a final decision. Council were heard on both sides, and the pleadings lasted a whole day, during which the major was carousing with his friends in Newgate, and boasting of the certainty of his escape, as he had only acted in conformity with the character of a man of honour.

In the midst of these delusive expectations, a gentleman called and told him that eleven of the judges had decreed against him; which greatly alarmed him. How far this was the fact could not then be known, for though the major employed several persons to wait at the Inn, to bring him information, they could learn nothing more than that the judges had broke up about ten o'clock at night, without declaring their opinion.

Not many days after this the keeper of Newgate told the major he must double iron him, to prevent his making his escape; and that he must be removed to a safer place; unless he would pay for a man, to attend him in his room. Oneby was shocked at this news, and asked the keeper's authority for such a proceeding; but he could obtain no satisfactory answer.

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He was now loaded with irons ; and having wrote several letters to the judges, and other persons of distinction, to which he received no answer, he began to be apprehensive that the most serious consequences would result from the crime of which he had been guilty.

The man appointed to attend the major in his room was one John Hooper, (who was afterwards executioner) a fellow of remarkable drollery, but of such a forbidding countenance, that when Oneby first saw him he exclaimed, “What the devil do you bring this fellow here for? Whenever I look at him I shall think of being hanged.” Hooper, however, by a knack of telling stories, soon made himself a very agreeable companion to the major.

At length the judges assembled again at Serjeant’s-Inn Hall, and having declared their opinions to each other, the council for the prosecution demanded that their lordships would proceed to judgment. Hereupon the sense of the bench was delivered to Mr. Oneby by lord Raymond, who said that it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that he had been guilty of murder : and that his declaring he would “have the blood” of Gower, had great weight in his disfavour.

To this the major solemnly declared that he had never spoken such words ; and begged the interposition of the judges with his majesty for a pardon. Lord Raymond told him it was in vain for him to deny the words, as they were returned in the special verdict : and that the judges could not interfere by an application to the king ; but that he must seek another channel through which to solicit the royal mercy.

A few days after this, judgment of death was passed against him ; and he was ordered to be
executed.

executed. His friends and relations exerted all their influence to procure him a pardon; but their intercessions proved in vain. For a while he flattered himself that his gambling companions would intercede in his favour, and he made application to them accordingly; but none of them interested themselves in any degree to do him service.

While the major was in confinement an author waited on him, and told him that a pamphlet was written in his disfavour; but that he would exert his best endeavours to put a stop to the publication. It was supposed that the author's view was to have learnt something from the major that might be inserted in the pamphlet; but failing to obtain any materials by these means, the book made its appearance in a few days.

This circumstance so enflamed the passions of Oneby, that he said "I would die willingly, if I could only get an opportunity of being revenged on that rascally, ragged author;" and he actually sent for him several times, with a view to have given him a drubbing; but the writer had more sagacity than to do honour to his invitation.

On the Saturday preceding the day that he was ordered for execution, an undertaker went to Newgate, and delivered him a letter, of which the following is a copy, saying that he would wait below for an answer.

"Honoured Sir,

This is to inform you that I follow the business of an undertaker in Drury-Lane, where I have lived many years, and am well known to several of your friends. As you are to die on Monday, and have not, as I suppose, spoke to
any

any body else about your funeral, if your honour shall think fit to give me orders, I will perform it as cheap, and in as decent a manner, as any man alive.

Your honour's unknown
humble servant,
G. H."

The major had no sooner read this letter than he flew into a violent passion; which being made known to the undertaker, he thought proper to decamp without waiting for his orders.

When Hooper came at night to attend Mr. Oneby, he told him of the letter he had received from the undertaker; and in terms very improper for his melancholy situation, expressed his resentment for the supposed affront.

Every hope of pardon being vanished, this unhappy man had recourse to a dreadful method of evading the ignominy of the gallows. On the night of the Saturday last mentioned, he went to bed at ten o'clock, and having slept till four o'clock on Sunday morning, he asked for a glass of brandy and water, and pen, ink, and paper; and sitting up in the bed, wrote the following note.

" Cousin Turvill,

Give Mr. Akerman, the turnkey below stairs, half a guinea; and Jack, who waits in my room, five shillings. The poor devils have had a great deal of trouble with me since I have been here."

Having delivered this note to his attendant, he begged to be left to his repose, that he might be fit for the reception of some friends who were to call on him. He was accordingly left, and a
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gentleman coming into his apartment about seven o'clock, and the major's footman with him, he called out to the latter, "Who is that, Philip?" which were the last words he was heard to speak.

The gentleman approaching the bed-side, found he had cut a deep wound in his wrist with a pen-knife, and was drenched in blood. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but he was dead before his arrival.

Mr. Oneby's fatal exit happened in the year 1729, after an imprisonment of above two years.

What shall we say to the case of this man? We trust that his crimes were such as none of the readers of this work will ever be tempted even to think of being guilty of. To the crime of having committed three murders on others, he at length added that of suicide.

Mr. Oneby was a military officer; and though he was acquitted on his trial for the first duel, and not brought to trial for the second, our military men will do well to reflect that the laws of God and nature will consider every duellist as a murderer. No provocation can warrant our taking away the life of a fellow creature!

But there is an argument that ought to have its full force with every foldier: this is no less than that the military law of our own country is strongly against duelling. The following extract out of the articles of war will speak for itself.

ARTICLE XX.

"Nor shall any officer or soldier presume to
 "send a challenge to any other officer or soldier,
 "to fight a duel, upon pain of being cashiered,
 "if he be an officer; or suffering the severest
 "corporal punishment, if a non-commissioned
 "officer,

“ officer, or private soldier: And if any officer,
 “ or non-commissioned officer, commanding a
 “ guard, shall willingly and knowingly suffer
 “ any person whatever to go forth to fight a duel,
 “ they shall be punished as above; and all se-
 “ conds also, and carriers of challenges, shall be
 “ taken as principals, and punished accordingly.
 “ —Nor shall any officer or soldier upbraid ano-
 “ ther for refusing a challenge, since, according
 “ to these our orders, they but do the duty of
 “ soldiers, who ought to subject themselves to
 “ discipline: And we do acquit and discharge all
 “ men who have quarrels offered, or challenges
 “ sent to them, of all disgrace, or opinion of
 “ disadvantage, in their obedience hereunto: and
 “ whosoever shall upbraid them, and offend in
 “ this case, shall be punished as a challenger.”

*Case of JAMES CLUFF, who was executed for
 Murder, in consequence of an Appeal.*

THIS unhappy young man was born in
 Clare-market, and lived as a waiter at se-
 veral public-houses, in all of which he main-
 tained an extraordinary character for diligence,
 obligingness, and integrity.

Mr. Payne, master of the Green Lattice in
 Holborn, hired Cluff as a servant, and during
 his residence here, he fell in love with Mary
 Green, his fellow-servant; but she being courted
 by another man, constantly rejected his addresses;
 which frequently agitated his mind in the most
 violent degree.

Green's other lover coming to see her, sat in the same box with her, and was received by her in an affectionate manner; but this did not seem to be much regarded by Cluff, who was then engaged in attending the customers: but when the lover was gone Mr. Payne perceiving that something had discomposed Cluff's mind, asked him the reason of it; but could not prevail on him to tell the cause.

While Mr. Payne and his wife were at dinner in the parlour, and the girl eating her dinner in one of the boxes, Mrs. Payne heard a noise as if two persons were struggling; and going into the tap room, Cluff said "Come hither Madam." On this she advanced, and saw the prisoner holding the deceased by the shoulders, who was sitting on the floor, and speechless; while the blood streamed from her in large quantities.

Mrs. Payne called out "What have you been doing James?" he said, "nothing." He was asked if he had seen her hurt herself. He said "No," "but that he had seen her bring up a knife from the cellar, where she had been to draw some beer for her dinner." Mr. Payne now entered the tap-room, and then went into the cellar, to discover if there was any blood there: but finding none, he accused Cluff on suspicion of having committed the murder; and instantly sent for a surgeon.

When the surgeon arrived he found that a knife had been stabbed into the upper part of the thigh, and entered the body of the girl, in such a manner that she could not survive the stroke more than a minute.

A bloody knife was found in the room; and Cluff was committed to Newgate for the murder.

On his trial, the surgeon deposed that the knife fitted the wound that had been made; and that he believed the woman had not killed herself: but the jury acquitted the prisoner, from what they deemed insufficiency of evidence.

A discharge of the accused party would now have followed of course; but William Green, the brother and heir of the deceased, immediately lodged an appeal; in consequence of which Cluff was brought to trial at the next sessions but one, when his case was argued with the utmost ingenuity by the council for and against him; but this second jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was the most devout and resigned that could be imagined: he exercised himself in every act of devotion; but solemnly declared his perfect innocence with respect to the murder.

He was visited by his friends, who earnestly entreated him to make a sincere confession, especially as, in his case, it was not in the power of the king himself to grant him a pardon. In answer hereto he freely confessed all his other crimes; but, saying he would not rush into eternity with a lie in his mouth, again steadily denied the perpetration of the crime of which he had been convicted.

The clergyman who attended him urged him to the confession of his guilt, and even refused to administer the sacrament to him on the morning of his execution, on any other terms than those of acknowledging his crime; but nothing could shake his resolution:—he still steadily persisted in his innocence.

On his way to the place of execution, he desired to stop at the door of his late master; which

being granted, he called for a pint of wine, and having drank a glass of it, addressed Mr. Payne in the following terms:

“ Sir, you are not insensible that I am going to
 “ suffer an ignominious death, for a crime of
 “ which I declare I am not guilty; as I am to
 “ appear before my great judge in a few mo-
 “ ments to answer for all my past sins. I hope
 “ you and my good mistress will pray for my
 “ poor soul. God bless you, and all your
 “ family.”

At the place of execution he behaved in the most composed, devout, and resigned manner; and seemed to possess his mind in the consciousness of innocence. There was a great concourse of spectators to witness his fatal end; to whom he spoke in the following manner: “ Good people,
 “ I am going to die for a fact I never committed.
 “ I wish all mankind well, and as I have prayed
 “ for my prosecutors, I hope my sins will be for-
 “ given, through the merits of my ever blessed
 “ redeemer. I beg you to pray for my depart-
 “ ing soul, and as to the fact I now die for, I
 “ wish I was as free from all other sins.”

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 25th of July, 1729, exhibiting no signs of fear to his last moment.

The case of this man is very extraordinary. The evidence against him was at best but circumstantial: and this not supported with such strong corroborative proofs as have occasioned convictions in many other instances. No person was witness to his commission of the murder; nor was there any absolute proof that he did commit it; and from the steady perseverance with which he denied it, under the most awful circumstances, and at the very concluding scene of his life, cha-
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rity would tempt one to believe that he was innocent.

Ought not his case to afford a lesson of caution to juries how they convict on circumstantial evidence? Is it not better that the guilty should escape than the innocent be punished? All the decrees of mortals are liable to error: but the time will come when all mists shall be cleared from our sight, and we shall witness to the wisdom of those laws of providence which are now inscrutable to mortal eyes. Then shall we see that what appeared inexplicable to us was divinely right; and learn to admire that wisdom which, at present, so much exceeds our finite comprehension.

In the mean time we ought to adore that goodness we cannot comprehend, and rest satisfied with those dispensations which are eternally and immutably just.

The very remarkable Case of JOHN GOW, commonly known by the name of CAPTAIN SMITH, who was Executed, with seven other persons for Piracy.

JOHN GOW, who was a native of one of the Orkney Islands in the North of Scotland, was instructed in maritime affairs, in which he became so expert that he was appointed mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz.

When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor from the place above-mentioned, the merchants who had shipped goods on board her, came to pay a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions.

On this occasion the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck; and, while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance.

The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers: but conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, but only said that there was a steward on board who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed: on which the seamen retired, with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Paterson, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders: on which the captain demanded why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails: to which he made no direct answer, but was heard to mutter, "As we eat, so shall we work." The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of, and his orders disobeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter-deck.

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The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow who was second mate and gunner, to clean the arms; a circumstance that must plainly insinuate to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate, communicated the substance of it to Gow and the other conspirators, who thereupon resolved to carry the plan into immediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship: wherefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprize; and they determined to murder the captain, and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck; and, after service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty: the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watch word was given, which was "Who fires first?" On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were sleeping.

The surgeon finding himself violently wounded, quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands to their throats, and going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite,

spite, to recommend their souls to heaven ; but even this favour was denied : for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

The captain hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied that he did not know, but he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea ; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them ; when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him ; for he now solicited mercy ; but, instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated his blow ; but he had struck with such force, that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy, secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter deck, appointed them their different stations on board, and it was agreed to commence pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that

no

no danger would happen to them if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned them.

The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission.

Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects in the cabin; and then ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter deck, they consumed the night in drinking; while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew originally consisted of twenty-four men; of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators; and before morning four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates; so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly usurped authority.

On the following day the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him, and telling them he was determined to go on a cruising voyage, said that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline was all that would be required. He said farther that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened: that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequences from it: that they had only to discharge their duty as

seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these unfortunate honest men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent to measures which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure; but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for, as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates were greatly apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men.

A man named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel, and, being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, he had an opportunity of exerting his cruelty by beating the unhappy men; a privilege that he did not fail to exert with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the George Galley, but the pirates gave her the name of the Revenge. and having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient.

They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland, to Cadiz; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named James Belvin; a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed

tomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear, rather than of inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship bound to Italy with pickled herrings: but this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruising eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colours, and crowded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and after a chase of three days and nights, they lost the French vessel in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the Madeira Islands, of which they came in sight in two days; but not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour, they steered off and on for several days, in expectation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel; but their expectations were frustrated.

Their distress encreasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water conveying in the boats to the ships. But both these schemes were frustrated, since it was easily known from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates.

When they had cruized off for some days they found themselves in such distress, that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on

which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement at the distance of about ten leagues.

On their arrival off this place they sent their boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives, unless they instantly furnished them with what they required.

The surprize of the Portuguese governor and his friends on this occasion is not to be expressed. They dreaded instant death, and with every sign of extreme fear, solicited that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart, and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruizing a few days off Cape St. Vincent they fell in with an English vessel bound from the coast of Guinea to America, with slaves: but had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon; however, it would have been of no use for them to have made capture of such a vessel: yet they did take it, and putting on board the captain and men they had heretofore taken,
and

and taking out all the provisions, and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship laden with wine, oil and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for his ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him, all of whom did so except one, who continued with the pirates through choice.

The day previous to this affair they observed a French ship bearing down towards them; on which Gow ordered his people to lay to; but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force.

The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, said that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him; but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Paterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen, thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard; when he suddenly sprang on

on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of his nature is not to be described: it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner, for his diversion (as he called it), and then threaten to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt-fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain, Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he might experience the justice due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned, and the following is a most striking instance of it. Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for: on which

Wil-

Williams proposed that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard; but Gow said there had been too much blood spilt already: for this was too horrid a proposal even for pirates to consent to.

The fact is, that Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm, if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly besought a reconciliation; but this being refused him, and he being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England: but even this poor favour was denied him; and his companions only wished him “a good voyage to the gallows.”

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon he delivered his prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged with his companions, as we shall see in the sequel.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive that as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they called a kind of council, in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated by his hope of profit, or by his fears.

Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where, he said, they might dispose of their effects, and retire, and live on the produce. To induce

induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great if they continued longer on the high seas; and above all, that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port.

He likewise said, that if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them; they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and if they would follow his directions much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals: but Gow said that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again before such an event could happen.

Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion: and it is probable that they might, for the present, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally obeyed.

These instructions were to say that they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm, but contrary winds driving them past the Sound, till it was filled with ice, they were under a necessity of putting in to clean their ship; and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling-vessel lay at this time in the bay. It belonged to the Isle of Man, and being laden with brandy and wine from
France,

France, had come north about, to steer clear of the Custom-House cutters. In their present situation Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel; though, in any other, he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching; for such of the men as had been forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and after laying concealed some time at a farm house, hired a person to shew him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, and about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates.

Having given information of what he knew of their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables and other peace-officers to call in the aid of the people, to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat, and having made the main land of Scotland, coasted the country

till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety, that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions.

In pursuance of this resolution he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county: and the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies.

Mrs. Honeyman running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage; to which he calmly replied that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste.

The boatswain missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings: but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings out of the window, and jumping out after them, escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their
boat,

boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes.

On the following day they weighed anchor; but on the evening of the same day came again to an anchor near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. However, they met with two women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, and treated them in so shocking a manner, that one of them expired soon after they had put them on shore.

This atrocious offence was no sooner committed than they sailed to an island called Calf-Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been an old school-fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken: though Fea could not oppose the pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fea's house was situated near the sea-shore; he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf-Sound; for standing too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep

belonging to Mr. Fea, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an anchor; and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer, and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceedingly ill; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied that they had no design to terrify Mrs. Fea, or any other person; but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected, if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr. Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit; but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent alehouse, and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and when they had done so, to call him hastily out of company, and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with; and when he had left the pirates he directed six men,
well

well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him; but if he came with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat: but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and walking with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed, he then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public-house.

There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one, and some to the other, and rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men, before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined; and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to, and steal them; and to request that no person

person would venture to row within reach of the pirates guns.

On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned round, and the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms: but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow, and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life, would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men in an open boat carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape: but if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship, rather than become a prisoner. He even said that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed, in a boat, and rowed towards the ship: but he previously placed a man with a flag in his hand at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

The

The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore; but if he beheld four or more of them, he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore, and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon Fea lay too, in waiting for him; but at this juncture he saw a man swimming from the ship, with a white flag in his hand, on which the man on the house waved his flag: but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it continually, on which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice.

The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to a corner of the island, and calling to Mr. Fea, told him that "the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Fea replied that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation.

Soon after this Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead.

On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of the men should be left as a hostage; and this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, he sailed over to the island, where
he

he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage: and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gow replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

To this Mr. Fea replied, that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such, must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals, that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Fea now insinuated to Gow that he would let him have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him: Gow complied; the men came off, and were severally seized, but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivance to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c. and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and, while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how
to

to act; but after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and coming on shore, were all taken into custody.

Thus by an equal exertion of courage, conduct, and artifice, did Mr. Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded; and only with the aid of a few countrymen; a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. In the interim Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, to be appropriated as the government might direct.

Six articles, of which the following are a copy, were found on board the ship, in Gow's handwriting. It is conjectured that, while they were entangled among the rocks of the Orkney Islands, these articles were hastily drawn up, and arose from their distressed situation.

I. That every man shall obey his commander, in all respects as if the ship was his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give, or dispose of the ship's provisions; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open or declare to any person or persons, who they are, or what designs they are upon; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch night and day, and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend his respective station.

VI. Every person who shall offend against any of these articles, shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

The express from Mr. Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates; and the answer brought was that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a court of admiralty, to be held for that purpose.

When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city; and, on their arrival, they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river a detachment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea Prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain, at Lisbon, as above-mentioned. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial; and soon after their commitment they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the Admiralty Court in Doctor's Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices.

Being

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams, and six others were convicted, and received sentence of death: but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him that he might be.

When brought to trial he refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His reason for this refusal was that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have been the case had he died under the pressure.

But, when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, humanely granted his request; and the consequence was that he was convicted, as above-mentioned, on the same evidence as his accomplices.

While under sentence of death he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the atrociousness of his crime; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations.

Williams's depravity of mind exceeds all description. He seemed equally insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment in a future state. He boasted, to those who visited him, of his constantly advising Gow "to tie the pri-

“soners back to back, and throw them into the “sea,” to prevent their giving evidence against them.

Gow, Williams, and six of their accomplices, were hanged at Execution-Dock, on the 11th of August, 1729.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke, and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

It is almost impossible to express a sufficient degree of abhorrence of the crimes which these malefactors were guilty of. Robbery, plunder, murder, of the most unprovoked kind!

It is astonishing to think that any men who wilfully depart from the line of virtue, and despise the dictates of religion, can promise themselves any kind of satisfaction. The minds of the guilty must be perpetually haunted with the most dreadful apprehensions! Not a moment's peace can they enjoy, from the rising to the setting of the sun; and even their nights must be disturbed by broken slumbers.

It ought to be mentioned, to the credit of modern times, that the crime of piracy is very uncommon to what it was formerly. Our seamen in general are as honest as they are brave. May they add to their honesty and their bravery a proper regard to the duties of religion; which will assuredly afford them comfort in every climate, and make them equally happy beneath the intense heats of the equinoctial line, and the extremest rigours of the polar circle. They will remember that God

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is ever present, and act as if under the divine influence. Thus may they be always happy, remembering that they are bound to a country where, when the voyage of life is ended, all will be happiness and serenity, and they shall reach that blissful port where storms, and wrecks, and whirlwinds are no more*!

* Those who have read the above narrative with attention will naturally be led to reflect what pains these unhappy men took to prove themselves villains; and how many hundred leagues they failed to render themselves unhappy. Accounts of voyages and travels, if well written, naturally interest the mind beyond any other species of writing. We seem to sail with the navigator, to travel with the traveller: to share in all their hardships, and participate in all their pleasures. The mind is insensibly conducted from one region to another, certain of meeting with satisfaction in all. An excellent periodical work of this kind has lately made its appearance, and is now publishing in weekly numbers, viz.

BALDWIN and MILLAR's New and Universal SYSTEM of GEOGRAPHY: being a complete modern history and description of the Whole World. Embellished with the best and most numerous set of whole Sheet Maps, Charts, Plans, and other beautiful and elegant Copper-plates ever published. To accommodate the Public, this work may be purchased by Weekly Numbers, (one or more at a time, price 6d. each,) or persons may be supplied with the Whole together, price unbound in 120 Numbers 3l. or, bound in calf and lettered, 3l. 10s. in one large Folio Volume. In the compilation of this Work, the Authors have been assisted by several gentlemen who have been studious in this agreeable kind of universal knowledge. This work comprizes all the late voyages to the south seas, by Mess. Byron, Wallis, Carteret, Furneaux, Cook, &c. and an accurate description of all the inhabitants of the newly discovered islands. It were superfluous to say, that it contains all the older navigations, from the times of Columbus and Magellan, down to those of Anson: and it would look like flattery to say what, however, may be said with truth, that as it is the last, so it is, indisputably, the most perfect work of the kind. It is adorned with an amazing variety of excellent Copper plates, Maps, Charts, Plans, &c. engraved by Artists of the First Name; and the Authors return public thanks to all those gentlemen who have contributed in producing so perfect a work.

Singular

Singular Case of JEPHTHAH BIG, who was hanged for sending a letter to extort money.

THIS malefactor was a native of Spitalfields, and having a brother who was coachman to a gentleman of fortune, he conceived an idea of supplying his own extravagancies, by extorting money from his brother's master.

Calling on one Peter Salter, he took him to an obscure public-house near the Minories, where he developed his scheme, saying he might obtain a hundred guineas by sending a threatening letter ; but was at a loss to think what house the money should be sent to: but at length he fixed on a public-house, called the Shoulder of Mutton, at Billingsgate, whither he directed Salter to go, and wait till a porter should bring a letter directed to John Harrison, which letter Salter was to carry to Big, at an alehouse on Fish-Street-Hill.

Agreeable to this direction Salter waited at the Shoulder of Mutton till a porter brought a letter, and spoke to the landlord and his son, who seemed surprized at reading the contents. Guilt is ever cowardly ; and one of them going out, Salter imagined it was to call an officer to apprehend him ; on which he slipped out of the house, and went to his companion on Fish-Street-Hill.

These associates in roguery taking a walk to Moorfields, Big said he was undaunted by this repulse ; and that he would write such a letter as would make the gentleman tremble ; and he did not doubt of success. In consequence of an agreement between the parties, another letter was sent, ordering the gentleman to send a hundred guineas, enclosed in a parcel, to the Black Boy in Goodman's-Fields, directed to John Harrison.

Salter

Salter went daily, and drank at this house, where he had hitherto been a stranger, in expectation of an answer, which he was to receive, guarding only against any artifice that might be used to apprehend him. While he was thus waiting, he read an advertisement in the news-paper, offering a reward for the incendiary.

At this juncture a porter brought a letter which he gave to the landlord, who having read it, the porter said, "I have a parcel for one Mr. Harrison; do you know such a gentleman?" The landlord enquired if any person present answered to that name; but Salter was too much on his guard to do so; and drinking his beer without any sign of fear, he went to an alehouse near Aldgate, where he met his accomplice, and told him a scheme was laid to apprehend him.

After some conference they adjourned to a public-house near the residence of the gentleman to whom the threatening letters had been sent. Here Big sent for his brother, who attended; but said, as he was obliged to go out with his master he could not stay with them. Big now observed that his brother had complained of the peevish disposition of his master, and asked if he did not intend to leave him. The brother replied that his master had been very fretful for some days past; but added, "I have now found out the reason; for some vile rogue has sent a threatening letter, and swears he will murder him, if a sum of money is not sent to a public-house in Goodman's Fields."

When Big's brother was gone, he told Salter he would send another letter, whatever might be the consequence; but Salter persuaded him not to run the risk of a proceeding which must be followed by certain ruin.

A few days after this the porter who had carried the letter, and seen Salter at both the public-houses, happened to meet him, and suspecting that he might be the incendiary, delivered him to the custody of a peace officer, on which he accused Big as the principal, who was thereupon apprehended and committed to Newgate, and Salter admitted evidence for the Crown.

Big being tried at the Old Bailey, was sentenced to die; but, after conviction, he seemed to be of opinion that he had not been guilty of a capital offence in sending a letter to extort money. He was thought to be a Roman Catholic, since he refused the attendance of the Ordinary while he lay in Newgate.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 19th of September, 1729, but was so ill at the place of execution that he could not attend the devotions proper for men in his calamitous situation.

There are few crimes so atrocious as that for which Big suffered. One would imagine that there could not be a wretch existing base enough to enjoy that terror of mind which an honest man must feel on his receiving a threatening letter, which leaves him no alternative but of being stripped of his property, or in hourly danger of being deprived of life.

Our laws can condemn to death: but they cannot inflict a punishment equal to the crime of such a villain; for the man who can wantonly sport with the peace of mind of his fellow-creatures, in the sordid hope of gain, has gone one step in iniquity beyond the power of the law to punish in an adequate degree.

We see, in the history of this offender, that he obtained no advantage from his endeavours to render another unhappy. We see that his con-
viction

viſion and execution ſpeedily followed the apprehenſion of his accomplice; and that this apprehenſion aroſe merely from the ſuſpicion of the porter, who had ſeen him at the two public-houſes where the money intended to be extorted was ordered to be ſent.

Hence let thoſe inclined to acts of diſhoneſty learn that the eye of Providence is ever watchful to bring their evil deeds to light, and puniſh them in the moſt exemplary manner. But there ought to be, in every breaſt, a ſuperior motive of action to that of fear. We ought to love virtue for its own ſake; and ſtill more, as it muſt be acceptable to the great parent of all good; to that God from whom all our bleſſings are derived; to that ſource of univerſal bliſs in whom we “live, move, and have our being.” By ſuch a conduct we ſhall infallibly render ourſelves happy in this life; and be ſucceſſful candidates for happineſs in that world where felicity ſhall never end!

Particulars of the remarkable Caſe of FRANCIS CHARTERIS, who was Condemned for a *Rape*; but afterwards Pardoned.

THE execrable ſubject of this narrative was born at Amsfield, in Scotland, where he was heir to an eſtate which his anceſtors had poſſeſſed above four hundred years; and he was related to ſome of the firſt families in the North, by inter-marriages with the nobility.

Young Charteris having received a liberal education, made choice of the profeſſion of arms

and first served under the Duke of Marlborough as an ensign of foot ; but was soon advanced to the rank of cornet of dragoons ; but he appears to have had other views than fighting when he embraced the life of a soldier.

Being a most expert gamester, and of a disposition uncommonly avaricious, he made his knowledge of gambling subservient to his love of money ; and while the army was in winter quarters he stripped many of the officers of all their property by his skill at cards and dice. But he was as knavish as he was dextrous ; and when he had defrauded a brother officer of all his money, he would lend him a sum at the moderate interest of an hundred per cent., and take an assignment of his commission as a security for the payment of the debt.

John, duke of Argyle, and the earl of Stair were at this time young men in the army ; and being determined that the inconsiderate officers should not be ruined by the artifices of Charteris, they applied to the earl of Orkney, who was also in the army, then quartered at Brussels, representing the destruction that must ensue to the young gentlemen in the military line, if Charteris was not stopped in his proceedings.

The earl of Orkney, anxious for the credit of the army in general, and his countrymen in particular, represented the state of the case to the duke of Marlborough, who gave orders that Charteris should be put under arrest, and tried by a court-martial. This court was composed of an equal number of English and Scotch officers, that Charteris might have no reason to say that he was treated with partiality.

After a candid hearing of the case, the proofs of Charteris's villainy were so strong, that he was
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sentenced to return the money he had obtained by usurious interest ; to be deprived of his commission, and to be drummed out of the regiment, his sword being first broken : which sentence was executed in its fullest extent.

Thus disgraced, Charteris quitted Brussels, and in the road between that place and Mecklin he threw his breeches into a ditch, and then buttoning his scarlet cloak below his knees, he went into an inn to take up his lodgings for the night.

It is usual in places where armies are quartered for military officers to be treated with all possible respect ; and this was the case with Charteris, who had every distinction shewn him that the house could afford, and, after an elegant supper, was left to his repose.

Early in the morning he rang the bell violently, and the landlord coming terrified into his room, he swore furiously that he had been robbed of his breeches, containing a diamond ring, a gold watch, and money to a considerable amount ; and having previously broken the window, he intimated that some person must have entered that way, and carried off his property ; and he even insinuated that the landlord himself might have been the robber.

It was in vain that the inn-keeper solicited mercy in the most humiliating posture. Charteris threatened that he should be sent to Brussels, and suffer death, as an accessory to the felony.

Terrified at the thought of approaching disgrace and danger, the landlord of the house sent for some Friars of an adjacent convent, to whom he represented his calamitous situation ; and they generously supplied him with a sum sufficient to re-imburse Charteris for the loss he pretended to have sustained.

Our unprincipled adventurer now proceeded to Holland, whence he embarked for Scotland; and had not been long in that kingdom before his servile submission, and his money, procured him another commission in a regiment of horse; and he was afterwards advanced to the rank of colonel.

Amidst all his other avocations, the love of money was his ruling passion; for the acquirement whereof there was no crime, of which he would not have been guilty.

The duke of Queensbury was at this time commissioner to the parliament of Scotland, which was assembled at Edinburgh, to deliberate on the proposed union with England. Charteris having been invited to a party at cards with the duchess of Queensbury, he contrived that her Grace should be placed in such a manner near a large glass, that he could see all her cards; and he won three thousand pounds of her in consequence of this stratagem. One good consequence, however, arose from this circumstance: the duke of Queensbury, incensed at the imposition, brought a bill into the house, to prohibit gaming for above a certain sum; and this bill passed into a law.

Our adventurer continued his depredations on the thoughtless, till he had acquired considerable sums. When he had stripped young gentlemen of their ready cash at the gaming-tables it was his practice to lend them money at an extravagant interest, for which he took their bonds to confess judgment, and the moment the bonds became due he failed not to take every legal advantage.

By a continued rapacity of this kind, he acquired several considerable estates in Scotland, and then removed to London, which, as it was the
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feat of greater dissipation, was a place better adapted to the exertion of his abilities.

He now became a great lender of money on mortgages, always receiving a large premium, by which at length he became so rich as to purchase several estates in England, particularly in the county of Lancaster.

Colonel Charteris was as infamous on account of his amours as for the unfeeling avarice of his disposition: his house was no better than a brothel and no woman of modesty would live within his walls. He kept in pay some women of abandoned character, who going to inns where the country waggons put up, used to prevail on harmless young girls to go to the colonel's house as servants; the consequence of which was, that their ruin soon followed, and they were turned out of doors, exposed to all the miseries consequent on poverty and a loss of reputation.

His agents did not confine their operations to inns; but wherever they found a handsome girl they endeavoured to decoy her to the colonel's house; and among the rest, Ann Bond fell a prey to his artifices. This young woman had lived in London; but having quitted her service on account of illness, took lodgings at a private house, where she recovered her health, and was sitting at the door when a woman addressed her, saying she could help her to a place in the family of colonel Harvey: for the character of Charteris was now become so notorious, that his agents did not venture to make use of his name.

Bond being hired, the woman conducted her to the colonel's house, where she was three days before she was acquainted with his real name. Her master gave her money to redeem some cloaths, which she had pledged to support her in
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her illness ; and would have bought other cloaths for her ; but she refused to accept them.

He now offered her a purse of gold, an annuity for life, and a house, if she would lay with him : but the virtuous girl resisted the temptation, declared she would not be guilty of so base an act ; that she would discharge her duty as a servant, and that her master might dismiss her, if her conduct did not please him.

On the day following this circumstance she heard a gentleman asking for her master by the name of Charteris, which alarmed her fears still more, as she was not unapprized of his general character : wherefore she told the house-keeper that she must quit her service, as she was very ill.

The house-keeper informing the colonel of this circumstance, he sent for the poor girl, and threatened that he would shoot her if she left his service. He likewise ordered the servants to keep the door fast, to prevent her making her escape ; and when he spoke of her it was in the most contemptuous terms.

On the following day he directed his clerk of the kitchen to send her into the parlour, and, on her attending him, he bid her stir the fire. While she was thus employed, he violently seized on, and ravished her, first stopping her mouth with his night-cap ; and afterwards, on her saying that she would prosecute him, he beat her with a horse-whip, and called her by the most opprobrious names.

On his opening the door the clerk of the kitchen appeared, to whom the colonel pretended that she had robbed him of thirty guineas, and directed him to turn her out of the house, which was accordingly done.

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Hereupon she went to a gentlewoman named Parsons, and informing her of what had happened, asked her advice how to proceed. Mrs. Parsons recommended her to exhibit articles against him for the assault; but when the matter came afterwards to be heard by the grand jury, they found it was not an attempt, but an actual commission of the fact; and a bill was found accordingly.

When the colonel was committed to Newgate he was loaded with heavy fetters; but he soon purchased a lighter pair, and paid for the use of a room in the prison, and for a man to attend him.

Colonel Charteris had been married to the daughter of Sir Alexander Swinton of Scotland, who bore him one daughter, who was married to the earl of Wemys; and the earl happening to be in London at the time of the above-mentioned transaction, procured a writ of habeas corpus, in consequence of which, the colonel was admitted to bail.

When the trial came on, every art was used to traduce the character of the prosecutrix, with a view to destroy the force of her evidence; but, happily, her character was so fair, and there was so little reason to think that she had any sinister view in the prosecution, that every artifice failed, and after a long trial, in which the facts were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, a verdict of guilty was given against the colonel, who received sentence to be executed in the accustomed manner.

On this occasion Charteris was not a little obliged to his son-in-law, lord Wemys, who caused the lord president Forbes to come from Scotland, to plead the cause before the privy coun-

council; and an estate of 300*l.* per annum for life, was assigned to the president for this service.

At length the king consented to grant the colonel a pardon, on his settling a handsome annuity on the prosecutrix.

Colonel Charteris was tried at the Old-Bailey on the 25th of February, 1730.

After his narrow escape from a fate which he had so well deserved, he retired to Edinburgh, where he lived about two years, and then died in a miserable manner, a victim to his own irregular course of life.

He was buried in the family-vault, in the church-yard of the Grey-Friars of Edinburgh; but his vices had rendered him so detestable, that it was with some difficulty that he was committed to the grave; for the mob almost tore the coffin in pieces, and committed a variety of irregularities, in honest contempt of such an abandoned character.

Soon after Carteris was convicted, a fine met-zotinto print of him was published, representing him standing at the bar of the Old-Bailey, with his thumbs tied; and under the print was the following inscription.

Blood!——must a colonel, with a lord's estate,
Be thus obnoxious to a scoundrel's fate?
Brought to the bar, and sentenc'd from the bench,
Only for ravishing a country wench?—
Shall men of honour meet no more respect?
Shall their diversions thus by laws be check'd?
Shall they be accountable to saucy juries
For this or t'other pleasure?—hell and furies!
What man thro' villainy would run a course,
And ruin families without remorse,

To

To heap up riches.—If, when all is done,
An ignominious death he cannot shun?

But the most severe, yet just, character of Charteris, was written by the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot, and is comprised in the following Epitaph.

HERE lieth the body of Colonel
DON FRANCISCO;

Who with an inflexible constancy,
And inimitable uniformity of life,
Persisted, in spite of age and infirmity,
In the practice of every human vice,
Excepting prodigality and hypocrisy;
His insatiable avarice
Exempting him from the first,
And his matchless impudence
From the latter.

Nor was he more singular
In that undeviating viciousness of life,
Than successful in accumulating wealth;

Having
Without trust of public money, bribe,
Worth, service, trade, or profession,
Acquired, or rather created
A ministerial estate.

Among the singularities of his life and fortune
Be it likewise commemorated,

That he was the only person in his time
Who would cheat without the mask of honesty;

Who would retain his primæval meanness
After being possessed of 10,000 pounds a year:
And who, having done, every day of his life,
Something worthy of a gibbet,
Was once condemned to one
For what he had not done.

Think not, indignant reader
His life useless to mankind :

PROVIDENCE

Favoured, or rather connived at,
His execrable designs,
That he might remain
To this and future ages,
A conspicuous proof and example
Of how small estimation
Exorbitant wealth is held in the sight
Of the ALMIGHTY,
By his bestowing it on
The most unworthy
Of all the descendants
Of Adam.

It is impossible to contemplate the character of this wretch, without the highest degree of indignation. A gambler, an usurer, an oppressor, a ravisher ! who sought to make equally the follies of men, and the persons of women subservient to his passions ; to the basest of passions ; avarice and lust !

It would be an affront to our readers even to caution them against following so execrable an example ; for surely the world will never produce two such characters as that of colonel Charteris : but, in this case, honest detestation may be allowed to take place : and it is some proof of virtue to despise the wicked.



Account of ROBERT HALLAM, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for *Murder*.

ROBERT HALLAM was a native of London, and intended by his parents for a maritime life, in preparation for which they had him instructed in navigation, and then apprenticed him to the captain of a trading vessel. He served his time with fidelity, acquired the character of an able seaman, and afterwards served on board several vessels as a mate, and was held in great reputation.

On his return to London he married a young woman, who being averse to his going again to sea, he purchased two of the Gravesend wherries, and continued to get his living on the Thames nine years.

His family being encreased by several children, he took a public-house, which was chiefly attended by his wife, while he still pursued his business as proprietor of the Gravesend-boats.

The taking an alehouse was an unfortunate circumstance for Hallam: for the house being frequented by the lowest of the people, and his wife being addicted to drinking, the place was a perpetual scene of riot and confusion.

Hallam returning from his business one evening, found his wife intoxicated; and being irritated by this circumstance, he expressed his sentiments with great freedom; and she replying with some warmth, he beat her so as to leave evident marks of resentment on her face.

Hallam's son now told his father, that a waterman who lodged in the house frequently slept with his mother; and some person present likewise hinting that this was probable, from some

familiarities they had observed between the woman and the waterman, Hallam charged his wife with being unfaithful to his bed; and she confessed that she had been so; on which he beat her in a more severe manner than before.

Not long after this he came home late at night, and knocked at the door; but no one coming to let him in, he procured a ladder to get in at the window; when his wife appeared, and admitted him. On his asking the reason why she did not sooner open the door, she said she had been asleep, and did not hear him; but she afterwards confessed that she had a man with her, and had let him out at a back window before she opened the door to her husband.

The infidelity of Hallam's wife tempted him to equal indulgence of his irregular passions; he had illicit connections with several women: and, in particular, seduced the wife of a waterman, who broke his heart and died in consequence of the affair.

On a particular night Hallam came home very much in liquor, and went to bed, desiring his wife to undress herself, and come to bed likewise. She sat, partly undressed, on the side of the bed, as if afraid to go in; while he became quite enraged at her paying no regard to what he said. At length she ran down stairs, and he followed her, and locked the street door to prevent her going out. On this she ran up into the dining-room, whither he likewise followed her, and struck her several times. He then went into another room for his cane, and she locked him in.

Enraged at this, he broke open the door, and seizing her in his arms, threw her out of the window, with her head foremost, and her back to the ground, so that on her falling, her back

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was broken, her skull fractured, and she instantly expired. A person passing just before she fell, heard her cry out “Murder! for God’s sake! for Christ’s sake! for our family’s sake! for our children’s sake, don’t murder me, don’t throw me out of the window!”

We give the above circumstances as what were sworn on the trial, in consequence of which the jury found Hallam guilty, and he received sentence of death: but the prisoner denied the fact, insisting that she threw herself out of the window before he got into the room: and he persisted in avowing his innocence to the last hour of his life, as we shall see in the sequel.

After sentence of death, he was visited by his father, to whom he solemnly declared that he had not thrown his wife out of the window, though in other respects he confessed that he had treated her with great severity. He made the same solemn declaration to the Ordinary of Newgate, who refused to administer the sacrament to him, because he would not confess the crime of which he had been convicted.*

At his several attendances at the chapel he constantly addressed himself to the people present, and avowed his innocence with the utmost solemnity. This he also did at the place of execution; where he delivered the following as his dying speech.

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* There seems something very preposterous in this conduct of the Ordinary; as if it was a necessary consequence that a man *must* be guilty, *because* he had been convicted. We have had too many instances of innocent people suffering; and surely the rites of the church ought not to be denied to the dying man!

“ Good People,

Custom making it necessary for persons in my deplorable condition, to say something at the place where they are appointed to suffer, that their death may contribute more towards moving others to repentance, and thereby make the greater satisfaction for those crimes, by which they have injur'd society, and offended God. I therefore to comply with it, and fully to unburthen a conscience oppress'd with the remembrance of my sins, by an open confession, as I hope I have already atoned for them by a sincere penitence, declare, in the presence of you good people, and of that Almighty Being, before whose judgment seat I am instantly to appear, that I neither threw my deceased wife out of the window, nor was so much as in the room when she threw herself out. I speak this merely out of respect to truth, and with no design to make reflections upon any. The God of verity; who knoweth the secrets of all hearts, and from whom the certainty of nothing can be hidden, knoweth that I was not the immediate instrument of her dreadful end; yet I do acknowledge the justice of his providence, who, for many great sins had appointed me unto this ignominious death, to which as to the judgment of my country, I will willingly submit. And as my sins and transgressions are so great, that they need not be heightened, and so numerous, that they ought not to be multiplied unto the world after my decease, I judge it proper, as a dying man, to inform ye good people, that I have lived till within a year of her decease in the greatest quiet and affection with my wife, but in that interval I confess, there have been many quarrels and much animosity between us: however, as I
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am to die for the consequences of them, I hope you will speak charitably of me after my decease, and not add, as is too often the custom, the imputation of crimes to him, whose guilt has already been too great.

Lastly, I entreat all Christians, that they would not reflect on those poor orphans I leave behind, for my sake, or that of their deceased mother. It will be affliction enough to those unhappy infants, to remember as they grow up, the dreadful end which hath happened unto their parents; I humbly entreat God it may imprint on their hearts a serious apprehension of doing any thing against his laws. As they cannot be thought in any degree answerable for my actions, so I hope my dying desire being added to the dictates of every man's reason, will preserve them from any reproach of this sort.

Finally, I freely and from my heart forgive those who have injured me in any manner whatsoever, especially those who have reflected too severely on me for that for which I die, entreating God also to pardon the intemperance of their tongues, who have sought to add to my sorrows, and to encrease the weight of my afflictions.

For you good people, I humbly beseech your intercession to Almighty God for my departing soul, that the greatness of his mercy may supply the imperfection of my repentance, and support me under the heavy load of sufferings, and efface the guilt of my crimes, and that the merits of my Saviour's death (in which alone I trust) may bring me to everlasting life.

ROBERT HALLAM."

Hallam was executed at Tyburn, on the 14th of February, 1732.

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It is impossible to form a just conclusion whether this man was innocent or guilty; but there is something in his case which should afford a lesson of caution to juries how they convict on circumstantial evidence.

There is such a similarity between this affair and one of a more recent date, that it may not be improper to recount a short history of the latter.

A few years since an inhabitant of Aldersgate-street was indicted, convicted, and sentenced to death for murdering his wife, by throwing her out of the window. It was proved that the woman had called out almost in the same manner as Mrs. Hallam did: yet the man was afterwards pardoned, from a prevailing opinion that the woman had thrown herself out, in the violence of an uncontrollable passion; and the character of the husband did not suffer in the opinion of any person of candour and humanity.



Account of the Exploits and Adventures of
WILLIAM SHELTON, who was hanged at
Tyburn, for robbing on the Highway.

THIS malefactor was born of respectable parents near Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, and received a liberal education in the learned languages. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not chuse any further connection with him.

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In consequence hereof he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke Newington; and though he still kept gay company, he served six years with a fair character.

About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequence that must arise from keeping bad company, and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too much gay company; and his own parents objected to it for the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his seven years were compleat, he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and his father having supplied him with money, he engaged in business, and was for some time greatly successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him much of his business, and many of his friends.

He had not been long in trade before he became enamoured of a young lady, daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood, and having made an acquaintance with her unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet. So soon had he forgot his vows to the former lady!

The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton was still in considerable business; but his attachment to company was such that his ex-

pences exceeded his income; so that he grew daily poorer; and his father dying about this time, left all his fortune to his widow, for her life; so that Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother.

He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarrassed, and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years.

Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua; and was received with such singular tokens of respect by the inhabitants of the island, that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon; and write to England for his wife to come over to him: but an unfortunate circumstance prevented the carrying this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton being invited by Colonel Ker, the latter gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night some of them would have gone home; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quitted the plantation.

Shelton agreed, among others, to stay; but he had not been long in bed when the liquor he had drank occasioned the most excruciating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the present; but he determined to embark for England, as he thought he felt the symptoms of an approaching consumption.

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Hereupon he sailed for his native country, and arrived to the surprize of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford in Hertfordshire, where there was a vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton having enquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassin, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him, and be at the expence of house-keeping. This proposal was accepted: but when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them, so that Shelton was obliged to abandon his agreeable prospect in a way that appeared not very reputable to himself.

Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself, he determined to commence highwayman; and having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common, but after looking out some hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his way to which he took about thirty shillings from four ladies whom he stopped in a coach: and he obtained three shillings and sixpence from a gentleman whom he met on the road.

He now put on a mask, and, thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham-Abbey, but taking a different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he the next day heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield.

The watches he sold to a Jew, and having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow-Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's money; and after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of thirty-two guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames to Richmond, where he dined, and afterwards stopped two ladies in a coach on Putney Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a quaker of nine pounds, and early on the following morning he stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of twenty-seven pounds. The reason for these rapid robberies was, that he had a debt to discharge which he had contracted at the gaming-table; which being done, he appeared among his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army: but as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel seeing a man masked coming forward, produced a pistol, and on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse; on which the colonel discharged his other pistol, but without effect. Hereupon the highwayman demanded his money, which having received, to the amount of about 50*l.* he took a circuit round the country, and came into London at night.

On the week following this robbery he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common, but being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chace, and having eluded his pursuers, he road to London, but in
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his way robbed a gentleman and a lady of between thirty and forty shillings, on Muswell-Hill.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person; but on his return through Islington, he heard somebody cry out "Stop the highwayman!" on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a flough; but getting through it, he stopped in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He therefore made a circle, and got down Goswell-street, to the end of Old-street, where he again heard the cry of "A highwayman!" on which he rode to Dog-House-Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this he rode to Enfield Chace, and putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages, while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles seeing this robbery, surrounded his horse; but on his firing a pistol they ran away, and he pursued his journey to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford-Road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers, who had been drinking at an alehouse till they were valiant, and were wishing to meet Dr. Shelton, whom they would certainly take; and they wondered how people could permit him to proceed unmolested. On this Shelton presented his pistol, and they delivered their money with every sign of fear: the money was but trifling, which he returned, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took several watches, and sixteen pounds, from the company in the Northampton stage: and the name of Shelton was now become so eminent that many other robbers courted his acquaintance;

tance, among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike-man on Stamford-Hill; but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution.

This design was no sooner mentioned to Shelton than he agreed to be concerned: whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night: but before they reached the spot, Shelton's companions relented, and would go no farther; on which they came to town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings: but Shelton determined to have no farther connection with these people.

His next robbery was on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, in the road from Hounslow, from whom he took 16l. and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches one evening, and acquired a booty of gold exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated robberies, a proclamation was issued for taking Shelton into custody, in which a minute description was given of his person; on which he concealed himself some time in Hertfordshire: but he had not been there long, before a person who recollected him informed a neighbouring magistrate, on which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for several robberies in Middlesex; and being convicted, he was sentenced to die.

While in prison he affected great gaiety of disposition, and was fond of entertaining his visitors with the history of his exploits. At times, indeed, he would be more serious; but he soon recurred to his former volatility.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution he seemed greatly agitated, and it was remarked that he shed some tears ; but having recourse to the bottle, he dissipated those ideas that had given him uneasiness.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 9th of October, 1732, having refused to perform the customary devotions at the place of execution.

There have been few robbers whose progress hath been more rapid than that of Shelton. He was successful, if there can be any success in villainy, in almost every project he undertook : yet a very short time brought him to a fatal and ignominious end.

This man abused the advantages of a liberal education, and is therefore less an object of pity than he would otherwise have been. He had an opportunity of living in a genteel and respectable sphere of life ; but his fatal attachment to company led him into extravagance that his income could not support.

His fate should be a lesson of warning to people in business, not to neglect their lawful professions, and the true interest of their families, to spend their time in taverns or ale-houses, in company with those who will appear happy with them while they are in prosperity, but will turn their backs on them when the day of adversity shall arrive.

There is no happiness in this world equal to that arising from the conscientious discharge of a man's duty. The first duty of a tradesman, next to that he owes his God, is that due to his family ; and the latter is included in the former. Genuine felicity is found only in the domestic life. " In that (says a celebrated writer) lies the TRUE, " because the UNTUMULTUOUS joy."

Re-

Remarkable Transactions and Adventures of JOSEPH POWIS, who was hanged for a *Burglary*.

THIS young fellow was a native of St. Martin in the Fields, and his father dying while he was an infant his mother married a smith in St. Martin's-lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur in Normandy, with many other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age.

They had not been long here before the father-in-law received a letter, advising him of the death of his wife; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and coming to London, in order to settle his affairs, soon returned to Normandy.

But the scheme in which they had embarked failing, they soon came back to England, and the man marrying a second wife, took a shop in Chancery-lane, London, and sent young Powis to school, where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar.

But he had not been long at school before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that when he was sent of an errand he constantly loitered away his time, reading at the stall of some bookseller.

When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country; and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London

don for about a week, in a condition almost starving; and sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger: but distress compelled them to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, forgave his fault, and he continued about a year longer with him; but having read a number of plays, he imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business.

Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his service to Mr. Rich, late manager of Covent-Garden Theatre; but having repeated some parts of the tragedy of Julius Cæsar, Mr. Rich told him he was disqualified for the stage, and advised him to attend his trade.

Soon after this Powis again quitted his father-in-law, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and taking out his best cloaths, again decamped.

Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's cloaths, easily judged who must be the thief; wherefore he went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly.

The justice threatening to commit him unless he made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home and discharge his duty: but this not suiting his inclination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew-Fair, he engaged with one Miller, to act a part in a farce exhibited at Smithfield.

His next adventure was the going to Dorking in Surry, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things: but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement: on which they proceeded to Horsham in Suffex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

Powis now slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen, of an inn, and being almost starved, he used to get in at the window, and steal victuals, while the family were in bed. He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord: but the latter soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair in the stead.

About this time Dutton took Powis's cloaths from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this town they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept into the kitchen, and devoured the remains of a cold pye; and stole a pair of boots and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, came not that night.

Powis having obtained a few halfpence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink at a public-house, but the landlord happening to be there, knew the boots to be his; on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to his hay-loft, where he expected to lie secure: but the landlord, Dutton, and others following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed that he
had

had stolen the victuals, on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen, to guard him till the next day, when it was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep; on which one of his guard said, "How the poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes;" to which the other said, "Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch while you sleep."

In a few minutes both the men were asleep; on which Powis, thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots; but making some noise, the landlord heard him, and coming down stairs, Powis affected to sleep as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bid them take more care of their prisoner; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again.

Powis now took the boots in his hand, and getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he had got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots, he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he missed his way, and getting on a common, knew not how to proceed: but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he laid down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and enquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way: on which the other directed him into the right road, in which he hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was dark; and as he was going through the street he heard a door open; and turning round, a woman who had a candle in her hand called him; and on his de-

manding what she wanted, she said to another woman, "Sure enough it is he."

This woman, who had washed the players linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him; and that his best way would be to avoid the high-road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition.

Powis immediately took this advice, and quitting the turnpike-road, got to a farm-house, where he stole three books and some other trifles, eat some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell, at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night: but knowing the place, he went into the back-yard, and laid down to sleep on some straw.

Observing some thrashers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging.

Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they conducted him into the house. His mother-in-law happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband.

In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to, and continued steady during the winter: but, on the approach of summer, he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Paterfon, whom he had known among the strolling players, Paterfon engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of the Earl of Essex, at Windmill-Hill, near Moorfields, which was then the place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London.

The part of Lord Burleigh being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills that this part was to be performed by a young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage, the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately, Lord Burleigh was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and being little better than a compound of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part; amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators.

Returning home through Ludgate-street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Soon afterwards, Powis being stopped one night in Chancery-lane, by a violent shower of rain, climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerks' Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress.

Leaning against a plaistered wall, part of it broke; but as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it, on which he resolved to
profit

profit by the accident; in consequence of which he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, whence he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver.

Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill-Hill, and in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money, in Smithfield; and a cry of "Stop thief" being immediately circulated, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which Powis picked up unobserved, and retiring to a public-house, examined the contents of the bag, which he found to amount to above fifty pounds.

Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed, he got into the area of a coffee-house in Chancery-lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney.

When the family were gone to rest he stole some silver spoons, and about three shillings worth of halfpence from the bar; and having now fasted thirty hours, he ate and drank heartily; but hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept; by which his feet were cut in a shocking manner.

It happened to be only the maid-servant, who came down stairs; and going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

Being

Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery-Office, where he stole about four pounds ten shillings, which being spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the appearance of the sexton interrupted him. The sexton, more terrified than the thief, ran to procure the assistance of another man: but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours; which they at length gave up, concluding that he had got out through one of the windows. However, he remained in the church all that day, and at the hour of prayer the next morning, went off with as many books as produced him about a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram-alley, Fleet-street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings and a guinea, being baulked in his expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church, he sold to a bookseller in the Strand; and while the lady who had lost it was enquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door; on which the bookseller said, "There is the man who sold it me;" and the lady replied, "He is a thief, and has stolen it."

The bookseller calling Powis into his shop, asked if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged ; and being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not ; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison ; but the lady now earnestly looking at him, asked if his name was Powis. He said it was ; on which she burst into tears, and said, " I am sorry for you, and for your poor father—You are the cause of all his unhappiness." The bookseller happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day ; but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the sign-post belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet-street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop, but not finding any money in the till, he stole only two or three old books, and filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped.

Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with : and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search.

This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt ; wherefore, on the following night, he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window ; but hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued, but escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at his disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered a while; but being distressed in mind, he imagined he heard a voice crying "Run, run, fly for your life; for you are pursued, and if you are taken, you will be hanged." He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind.

Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he again lay down; but the stings of his conscience again haunting him, he dreamt that a person came to him, saying, "Young man, you must go away from hence; for where I to suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to fall on me; so go away, or I will fetch a constable, who shall oblige you to go." Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out "Who is there?" but receiving no answer, he laid down again, and dreamt that his father-in-law stood by him, and spoke as follows: "O son! will you never take warning till justice overtakes you? The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been warned by me."

Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law; but as he was going to him, he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings; and going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolutions he had formed.

On parting from this acquaintance he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours, and then, being extremely hungry, went to a

public-house, where he supped, and spent all his money, except eight-pence.

Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery-Office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty.

In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety; and having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him: wherefore he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance.

Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new cloaths, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drinking, at which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new cloaths.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in guilt, that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early, he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery-lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would amend his conduct.

Powis being now very much distressed, applied to his still generous relation, who advised him to

go to the West-Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger: and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage.

Powis accepting the offer, was properly fitted out, and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship: but most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him.

Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger, and having stolen a handsome suit of cloaths, he took the opportunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them, and dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and after striving a considerable time, he was obliged to let her drive, the consequence of which was that she ran on shore below Woolwich.

Quitting the boat, he set off towards London; but near Deptford he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig, on which he went into a public-house with them, where they told him that a friend of their's had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber.

Powis saw through the artifice, and calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for, to take the villains into custody: but the men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer proceeding to London, changed his cloaths, and took to his former practice of house-breaking, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to

the house, where he had formerly been, at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being alarmed, he was pursued and taken.

As he was known by the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread of the consequence, that they conducted him again to the father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box-money, he got into company, and spent the whole, after which he renewed his former practices.

Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery-lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books, and a quantity of linen; and soon after this he broke into the house of an attorney, and getting into a garret, struck a light; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of "Thieves!" A man ascending a ladder, being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling, but failing in this, the other cried "There is the thief!" Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter's yard adjoining; but could get no farther.

While he was in this situation, the carpenter going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the Round-house; but on the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually that the offence was forgiven; and he was once more taken home to the house of his ever-indulgent relation.

After

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welch gentleman of large fortune, who having brought his lady to London to lay in, she died in child-bed, and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis's father-in-law was sent for to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams.

Powis being employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen, he found a small box remarkably heavy, which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the amount of more than 200*l.* all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the larger box.

Powis being possessed of this booty, consulted an acquaintance as to the method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed to, the acquaintance kept the jewels, and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen, Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and being tried at the next sessions, was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings.

He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreaties, and a promise of a total reformation of manners,
made

made such interest, that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Once more did the father-in-law take this ungracious boy into his house, where he continued about seven months, when meeting with one of his dissolute companions, he spent all his money, and was then afraid to return home.

He now refrained some time from acts of theft, and taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet-street, subsisted by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for five shillings and six-pence.

On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbrokers, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

In less than a week after adjusting this affair, our young, but hardened villain, broke open the coffee-house in Chancery-lane, which we have already mentioned, and stole a few articles which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole two books, which he sold for half a crown.

On the following evening, he went again to the office, and hid himself under the stair-case; but being heard to cough by a man who had been left to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood; where his father-in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in his behalf, that he was permitted to go home with him for the night.

On the following day some gentlemen came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes of which he had been charged;

ed; but the gentlemen having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the masters in chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law, he was recommended to work with a smith in Miltord-lane, in the Strand: but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery-office; which obliged him to abscond.

Ströling one evening into the Spa-fields near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in New-Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but not having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bid him “thank God, and “take care never to get into trouble again.”

In a short time after his discharge, he broke into the Earl of Peterborough’s house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for four shillings: and on the following night, he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln’s-Inn Fields, where he got a considerable sum of money; and to prevent persons who knew him suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions, to celebrate his birth-day, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company, to whom, on the succeeding day, he sent the following ridiculous letter :—

“ Fairest of your sex,

“ Permit me to lay at your feet a heart entirely
 “ devoted to your beauty, and which is incapable
 “ of any other passion than love, unless you by
 “ cruelty cause grief to usurp his throne. But
 “ stay, I am going to dispute of what I have not :
 “ my heart fled from me last night, and has taken
 “ refuge in your breast : I do not envy it, but
 “ would participate with its happiness, which is so
 “ infinite, as were I a king, I would leave my
 “ dignity to enjoy you in a cottage. O ! don’t
 “ frown upon me, lest you thereby kill me, who
 “ only desires to live to convince you how he is
 “ your adorer and humble slave,

JOSEPH POWIS.”

The girl paying no attention to this letter, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grand-father in Yorkshire would leave him a large sum of money; and in proof of what he said he shewed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them.

The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a
 house

house that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, and calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery, by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then, concealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see the Beggar's Opera*, he was greatly shocked at the appearance of Macheath on the stage in his fetters, and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet, about a week afterwards, he broke open a cook's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, and treated the prisoners to the amount of seven shillings, and on his quitting the prison, met two girls whom he knew, and with them he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the amount of twelve shillings and 6d. so that only eighteen pence remained of his last ill-gotten guinea.

On the following day Powis went to the Black Raven, in Petter-lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself.

VOL. II. No. 21

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About

* It has been matter of great debate whether the representation of the Beggar's Opera on the stage does or does not tend to corrupt the morals of the rising generation. In our humble opinion it does. Macheath is deserving an ignominious fate; yet the poet has so managed that he is reprieved. An evil example is therefore given, and an encouragement is held out to vice.

About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempted to open the door of the tap-room; but failing in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the window open, alarmed the family. Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself: but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended; but not till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another had struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses: circumstances of severity that could not be justified, as he made no resistance.

The offender was lodged in the Compter for the present, and being removed to Newgate, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death: but the jury, considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favour was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation.

When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal favour: but he was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised; but could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 9th of October, 1732, at the age of 22 years, after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life.

The

The case of this malefactor will afford a very striking lesson to youth. In the former part of his life we see the miserable situation of a strolling player; and surely the distresses he encountered will be deemed enough to terrify thoughtless young men, who are fond of what is called spouting, from engaging in this vagrant course of life.

The terrors of Powis's conscience, when he lay down to sleep under the hay-rick, shews that there is no peace to the wicked. One self-approving hour, the consequence of having discharged our duty, must afford more solid satisfaction, than whole months spent in that riot and debauchery which may be purchased with ill-gotten wealth.

Nothing, surely, can be equal to the goodness with which Powis was treated by his father-in-law. His kindness appears to have been almost without example; and what could scarcely have been expected, even from a real parent.

This offender, then, sinned against all advice, all warning, all indulgence: but surely his dreadful fate will have a forcible effect on young people who may read this narrative. We hope it will, in a particular manner, teach them the necessity of duty to their parents; and that the only way to be happy in advanced life, is to be virtuous and religious while they are young.

Particular Account of SARAH MALCOLM, who was hanged for *Murder*, with her Behaviour and Confession at the *Place of Execution*.

THE father of this unhappy woman possessed an estate of about 100l. a year in the
 I i 2 county

county of Durham, where she was born in the year 1711.

Being a man much addicted to pleasure and extravagance, the estate became soon mortgaged, except his wife's jointure. He then, in company with his wife and daughter, set out for Dublin, the place of his wife's nativity; where he purchased a place in one of the public offices belonging to that city, the profits of which enabled him to live in credit, and to give his daughter an education superior to that of the common class of people.

Our unfortunate heroine, being naturally of a sprightly disposition, wholly engaged the affections of her parents, with whom she lived on terms of reciprocal esteem.

Some years after, her father having some business of consequence to settle, they came to London; where his wife dying in a short time, he married another; who not being agreeable to the daughter's disposition occasioned a separation between them.

In consequence of the above, Sarah, who was now arrived at woman's estate, was obliged to have recourse to servitude for a subsistence. In this station she lived in many reputable families, with great credit, being much commended for her diligence and sobriety. At last, unfortunately for her, she became a servant at the Black Horse, a public-house near Temple-Bar; where she contracted an acquaintance with one Mary Tracy, a woman of light character, and two young men who were brothers, named Thomas and James Alexander.

From this house she was recommended as a laundress, and to take care of gentlemen's chambers in the Temple; and amongst her employers was a Mr. Kerril, a young gentleman from Ireland. She
offi-

officiated also as a chair-woman to Mrs. Lydia Duncomb, a lady of about eighty years of age, who had chambers also in the Temple, where she kept two servants, Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price about seventeen.

This lady being reputed very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah of robbing her chambers, in order, as it is supposed, by dint of money to gain one of the Alexander's as a husband.

On Saturday the third of February, 1733, Sarah called at Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, where she staid till about eight o'clock in the evening, under a pretence of visiting Mrs. Harrison who was just recovered from a fit of sickness. Mrs. Love, a lady who had engaged to dine with Mrs. Duncomb the next day, being present at the time.

It was generally imagined the true meaning of her visit, was either to secret the key of the door, or to spoil the lock so as to gain an easier admittance to put her diabolical design into execution; as the horrid murders were either committed that night, or early the next morning.

On Sunday, the following day, about nine in the morning, a Mr. Gahagan, who had chambers on the same floor, breakfasted with Mr. Kerril, after which they went to the Commons together: during which time, Mrs. Love (already mentioned) coming to Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, could not gain admittance: after waiting a considerable time she went down stairs, when, meeting with Mrs. Oliphant, she enquired whether she had seen any of Mrs. Duncomb's family; who replying she had not, it made her conclude, that the old maid, Elizabeth Harrison was dead, and that Ann Price was gone to acquaint her sister with the news.

Mrs.

Mrs. Oliphant then went to Mrs. Rhymer (executrix to Mrs. Duncomb) who returned with her to the chambers, but could make no one hear, when seeing Sarah Malcolm at the bishop of Bangor's door, they called to her, and begged she would fetch a smith to force open the door, to which she immediately consented, but returned without one: when Mrs. Love expressing her fears that they were all dead, Mrs. Oliphant proposed getting out of her master's window into the gutter, where, by breaking a pane of glass, she could easily open Mrs. Duncomb's casement; which was accordingly effected. Mrs. Love, Mrs. Rhymer, and herself then went in, and the first object that presented itself in the passage, was the body of Ann Price, laying on her bed, wallowing in blood, with her throat cut from ear to ear.

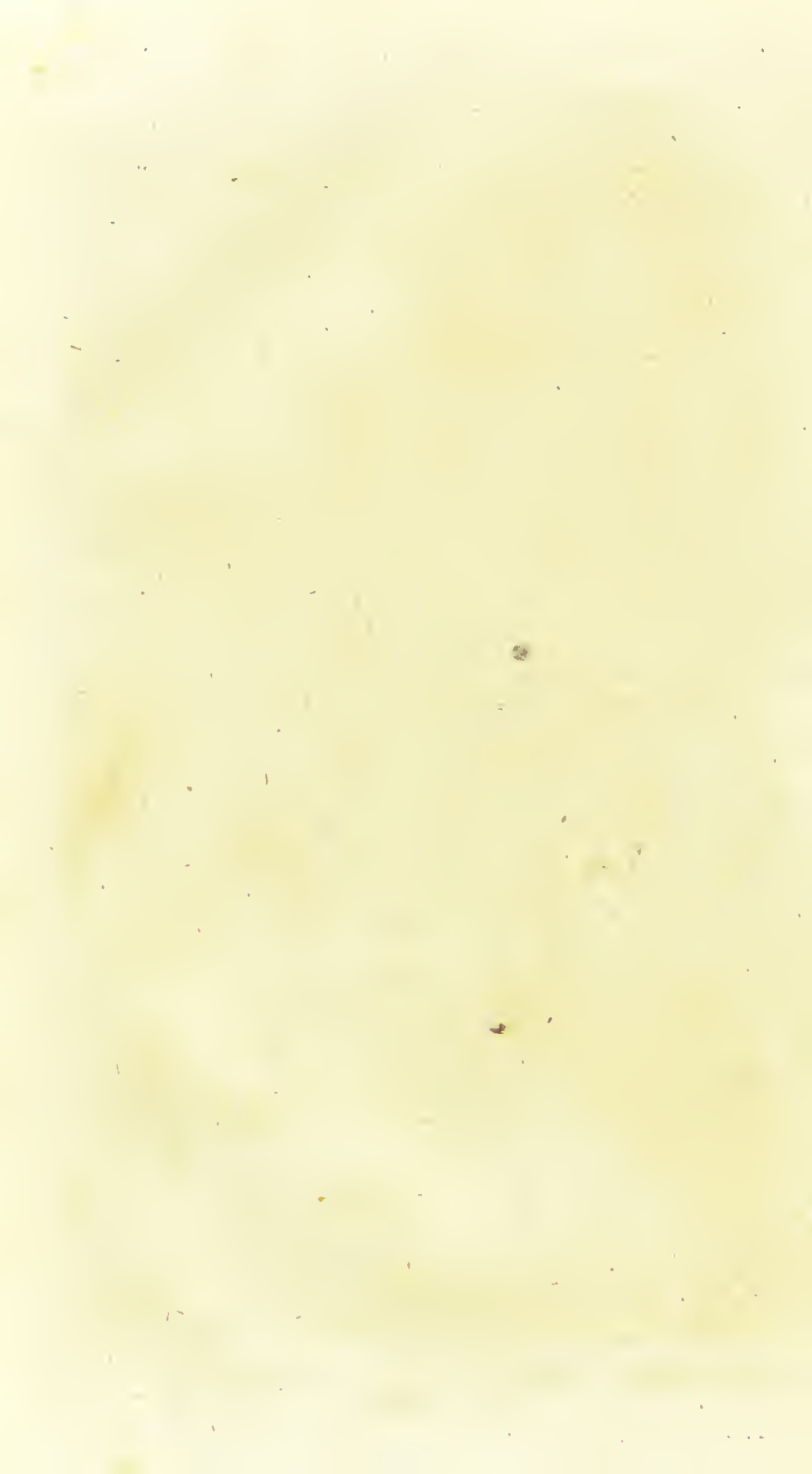
In the next room lay Elizabeth Harrison, strangled; and in an adjoining room, the poor old lady lay, also strangled on her bed: the box where she kept her money being broke open and stripped of its contents, excepting a few papers only.

The neighbourhood became soon alarmed with the news of these shocking murders. Mr. Gahagan and Mr. Kerril happening to pass at the time, and seeing a croud of people about the chambers, enquired what was the matter. And they were informed of the shocking murders committed on Mrs. Duncomb and her servants.

As they walked on, Mr. Gahagan said to Mr. Kerril,—“Mrs. Duncomb was your Sarah's acquaintance,” which the latter passed unnoticed. On their arrival at a coffee-house in Covent-Garden, these horrid murders engrossed the conversation of the whole company, who seemed



Sarah & Malcolm apprehended for the murder of M. T. Funcomb & Co.



seemed to be unanimous in the opinion, that they must have been committed by some laundress, who was well acquainted with the chambers.

From the coffee-house, these gentlemen adjourned to the Horse-shoe and Magpye in Essex-street; where they continued till about one in the morning; when they both returned to Mr. Kerril's chambers. On their entrance they found Sarah Malcolm, with the door open, lighting a fire. "So Sarah (says Mr. Kerril) are you here at this time of the morning? you knew Mrs. Duncomb, have you heard of any body that is taken up for the murder?" "No," said she, "but a gentleman who had chambers under her, has been absent two or three days, and he is suspected." He replied thus, "Nobody who was acquainted with Mrs. Duncomb shall be in my chambers, till the murderer is discovered; and therefore look up your things and be gone."

In the interim two watchmen were called, who found her turning over some linen in a box. On being asked who it belonged to, she replied it was her own. Mr. Kerril then missing two waistcoats, enquired what she had done with them. She then called him aside, and told him she had pawned them for two guineas at Mr. Williams's in Drury-lane; praying his forgiveness and assuring him that he might depend upon her redeeming them.

Mr. Kerril then informed her that he was not so much displeased with her on account of the waistcoats, but suspected her to be concerned in the murders. He then observed a bundle lying on the floor, which she informed him was her gown with some linen tied up in it, which she hoped decency would forbid him opening: which he accordingly declined.

On

On a stricter search he missed several things belonging to himself, and finding others, not his property, he immediately ordered the watchmen to secure her, giving them a strict charge not to let her escape.

When she was gone, he requested Mr. Gahagan to assist him in a thorough search; and looking into the close-stool, they discovered more linen, and a silver pint tankard, the handle of which was bloody. On calling up the watchmen again, they informed the gentlemen that they had set her at liberty, on her promising to surrender at ten o'clock the next morning. They were ordered immediately to find her again at all events; and, calling to their brother watchman at the gate, they luckily found she had not left the Temple; and in a few minutes she was brought back to the chambers. Upon being shewn the bloody tankard and linen, and asked, who they belonged to, she asserted that they had been left her by her mother; that the blood was in consequence of having cut her finger; and making some other frivolous excuses, she was again ordered into custody of the watchmen till morning.

On searching her in the watch-house, a green silk purse, containing twenty-one counters, was found in her bosom. The next morning, after a full examination, she was committed to Newgate.

On her entering Newgate she saw a room belonging to the debtors, and enquired whether she could not have that room. She was answered by Roger Johnson, a turnkey, that it would cost a guinea; she replied that she could send for a friend that would raise two or three guineas if necessary. She then went into the tap-room, and talked very freely with the felons. Johnson then took her into a room where there was no other prisoner; and

and on searching her he found a bag concealed under her hair, containing 20 moidores, 18 guineas, 5 broad pieces, (one of which was of twenty-five shillings value, the others twenty-three shillings each,) a half broad piece, five crowns and two or three shillings. On being asked by Johnson where she had the money, she replied, it was some of Mrs. Duncomb's; "but Mr. Johnson," says she, "I'll make you a present of it, if you will but keep it to yourself, and let nobody know any thing of the matter; for the other things against me are nothing but circumstances, and I shall come off well enough; and therefore I only desire you to let me have threepence or six-pence a day till the sessions are over, and then I shall be at liberty to shift for myself." He accordingly took the money, which he sealed up in the bag, and which was produced in Court on her trial.

She also informed Johnson that she had engaged three men, for a trifling sum of money, to swear, that the tankard belonged to her grandmother, adding that was all she wanted, for as to the rest she could do well enough; she said the names of two of the men were Denny and Smith, the other she had forgot; but that she feared they were not to be depended on. She then, (confiding in Johnson,) put a piece of mattrafs in her hair to make it appear in bulk as before, and by that means prevent a discovery.

She afterwards told Johnson, that she was the contriver of the robbery, but two men and a woman were concerned with her; that she watched on the stairs, while they committed the fact; but that she was no ways concerned in the murder.

She also said that one William Gibbs had been with her, by whom she had sent ten guineas to the two Alexanders before-mentioned, who she said were the men that were concerned with her; and she continued to charge them with the guilt even after her condemnation.

Soon after her commitment to Newgate, she declared herself a dead woman, and it being the general opinion that she would destroy herself, she was ordered to be put into one of the cells, and a proper person was appointed as a guard on her.

Being seized with violent fits, a surgeon was sent for, as it was imagined she had taken poison; but he gave it as his opinion, that they arose from the consciousness of her guilt, and the terror of her approaching fate had caused the preternatural hurry of her spirits.

When questions were asked her, she prevaricated so much in her answers, and appeared withal so extremely hardened, that little regard was paid to what she said. She would by no means suffer any of her acquaintance to see her; but the two Alexanders and Mrs. Tracy being taken, she desired to be confronted with them, saying, she should die with pleasure now they were taken.

They were accordingly ordered to be conducted into her presence; when she charged them in the boldest manner with the murder, crying out "Aye, these are the persons that committed the murder." Then turning to Mary Tracy, she said, "You know this to be true; see what you have brought me to; it is through you, and the two Alexanders, that I am brought to this shame, and death must follow; you all declared you would do no murder; but to my great surprize, I found the contrary."

When

When she was requested one day by some gentlemen in the press-yard, to make a full discovery of this bloody transaction; she replied with great warmth, "After I am laid in my grave, it will be found out." They then enquired if she was satisfied in her mind, and was resolved not to make any further confession: she answered, "that as she was not concerned in the murder, she hoped God would accept her life as an atonement for her manifold sins."

When brought to her trial the strongest circumstantial proof appeared against her, from the evidence of Mr. Kerril, Mr. Gahagan, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Oliphant, with the two watchmen, and many other witnesses; so that not a person in the whole Court entertained a doubt of her guilt. When called on for her defence, she spoke to the following purport.

That she freely acknowledged her crimes were deserving of death, but that she was entirely innocent of the murder; that the robbery was contrived by Mary Tracy and herself; that they met at Mr. Kerril's chambers, on the Sunday before the robbery was committed, he being from home when the robbing Mrs. Duncomb was proposed. That she told Tracy she could not do it by herself. "No," says Tracy, "there are the two Alexanders will help us." That the next day she had seventeen pounds sent her from the country, which she deposited in Mr. Kerril's drawers. That they all met the Friday following in Cheapside, when it was agreed to put their scheme in execution on the following night.

That the next evening, between seven and eight, she went to see Elizabeth Harrison, who was ill; with whom she staid a short time, and

then went to meet Mary Tracy and the two Alexanders, who proposed going about the robbery immediately, to which she objected, as being too soon. Mary Tracy persisting, she told her she would go and see, and accordingly went up stairs, and they followed her; that she met the maid on the stairs, with a blue mug, going for milk to make a sack-poffet, who enquired who these people were that followed. She told her, they were going to Mr. Knight's. When gone, she said to Tracy, "Now do you and Tom Alexander go down; I know the door is left a-jar, because the old maid is ill, and can't get up to let the young maid in when she comes back." That James Alexander then went in, and hid himself under the bed; that she going down again, met the maid coming up, who enquired if she had spoke to Mrs. Betty: she answered no, and going down, spoke with Tracy and Alexander: then went to her master's chambers, where staying about a quarter of an hour, she went back, and found Tom Alexander and Tracy sitting on Mrs. Duncomb's stairs. At twelve o'clock they heard Mr. Knight come in and shut his door. It being a very stormy night, there was nobody stirring except the watchmen when they cried the hour.

About two another gentleman came to light his candle with the watchman, upon which she removed farther up stairs. Soon after she heard Mrs. Duncomb's door open; and James Alexander came out, and said "now is the time." Tracy and Tom Alexander then went in, she waiting upon the stairs to watch. Between four and five they returned, one of them called to her softly, "Hip! how shall I shut the door?" She replied, "'tis a spring lock; pull it too, and it will be fast," which they accordingly did.

That

That they then proposed sharing the money upon the stairs, to which she objected; they then went under the arch by Fig-tree-court; and she enquired how much they had got; when they informed her, that in the maid's purse they found fifty guineas and some silver, in the drawers about one hundred pounds, exclusive of the tankard, money in the box, and other valuable things, amounting in the whole to about three hundred pounds.

That they then informed her that they had gagged the old lady and her maids. That she received the tankard, a sum of money, and some linen for her share, they reserving a silver spoon, ring, and the remainder of the money to themselves. That they next advised her to be very cautious to conceal the money under ground and not to appear to possess any: and that they then appointed a meeting at Greenwich which was afterwards forgot.

Her defence being ended, the jury withdrew for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of guilty.

While under sentence of death she seemed to feel all the horrors of guilt, and would frequently fall into violent fits which appeared to be attended with agonies, expressive of the utmost perturbation of mind. In one of these fits the keeper enquiring what was the matter, she replied that she was affected by being informed that she was to be executed amongst all her acquaintance in Fleet-street, the thoughts of which were insupportable. In answer to this the keeper told her, "that
" could not be the truth; as he made her acquaint-
" ed with the place where she was to die, on
" the dead warrant's coming down; therefore
" it was not probable that it could have such
" an

“an effect on her at this time.” He then, by the most forcible arguments, recommended her to make a full confession of her guilt, as the only means of quieting her conscience; but to this advice she made no reply.

About ten o'clock the same evening she called to a fellow-prisoner in the opposite cell, who was to die the next day; exhorting him to take comfort, and offering for him her prayers, which he begged her to do, and which she accordingly did for a considerable time. After which, calling to him again, she said, “Your time is short as well as mine, and I wish I was to go with you: as to the ignominy of your fate, let not that trouble you: none but the vulgar will reflect either on your friends or relations; good parents may have unhappy children, and pious children may have unhappy parents; neither are answerable for the other. As to the suddenness of our death, consider we have had time to prepare for it, whereas many die so suddenly, that they have not time to call for mercy.”

The bell-man coming at the usual time, he exhorted her to attend to what he said, which she accordingly did; and then throwing him a shilling, bid him call for a pint of wine.

Notwithstanding this unhappy woman attended prayers very constantly during the time of her being in Newgate, there is great reason to imagine, from many circumstances, that she was brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; which suspicion is confirmed by a letter she received from a priest of that persuasion, a few days before she suffered; though it is certain, from the last actions of her life, that she adhered to no principles of religion whatever.

Her

Her behaviour was far from sincere, and she generally contradicted herself in whatever questions were asked her ; so that instead of preparing for that awful state on which she was then entering, she daily added to her other crimes, the sin of hypocrisy.

On the morning of execution, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the Ordinary and another clergyman who attended with much sincerity.

When in the cart she wrung her hands and wept most bitterly. The accumulated guilt of the very enormous crimes she had committed, seemed now to press heavily on her, and she appeared almost ready to sink under a load of affliction.

At the place of execution she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation to the Divine will ; but when the Ordinary in his prayers recommended her soul to God, she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart's driving off she turned towards the Temple crying out, " Oh my master ! my master ! I wish I could see him ;" and then, casting her eyes towards heaven, called upon Christ to receive her soul.

She was executed near Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street, on the 7th day of March, 1733.

It is hoped the melancholy fate of this unhappy young woman will serve as a warning to young people in general ; and that they may learn this useful lesson, " That in whatever station
" of life Providence may think fit to place them
" therewith to be content." Had she followed this excellent precept, she might have lived to have been an ornament to her sex ; notwithstanding

ing the low sphere in which she was placed at the time of her committing these most cruel murders.

The natural abilities she possessed, improved by a tolerable education, had formed her for an agreeable member of society; but she, on the contrary, giving loose to her most inordinate desires, fell a victim to the injured laws of her country, which she had violated by the most unheard of crimes, attended with the most aggravating circumstances. The unfortunate method she took to gain one of the Alexanders as a husband, involved them all in irretrievable ruin; as notwithstanding it was by many believed they were innocent of the horrid crimes with which she charged them, no evidence of their guilt appearing; yet it left such a stain in their characters as could never be removed.

Such an abominable instance of cruelty (and that to those of her own sex) we hope will never more stain the annals of history!

Remarkable Narrative of the Life of Captain
JOHN PORTEOUS, who was Condemned for
Murder at Edinburgh, and Hanged by the Mob.

JOHN PORTEOUS was the son of a poor man near Edinburgh, who after giving him a good education, bound him apprentice to a taylor, with whom, after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman.

Porteous was soon noticed by several reputable gentlemen, as a young man of good address and fine accomplishments, and one whom they entertained a desire to serve.

It

It happened at this time that a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner: and knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands, by making her his wife.

When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman taylor: but on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly.

Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time, but being much addicted to company, he neglected his business; by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them.

In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, of twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they stile captain, with a salary of eighty pounds a year and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honourable.

A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place; and the latter being now advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman; and assumed all the consequence of a man in authority.

If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of resolute spirit, and unacquainted with fear. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission, and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musquet, and frequently breaking legs and arms.

If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned debauchee himself, he would take pleasure in exposing the characters of all those he found there, thereby destroying the peace of many families: he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, though many of them had been seduced by himself.

Amongst the many instances of cruelty he committed, we shall mention the following, because it procured him the universal hatred of the people in that city:

A vacancy happening in the lectureship of a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates; and having each an equal number of votes, the dispute was referred to the presbytery; who declared in favour of Mr. Dawson. The other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon, appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult being apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace, but finding, on his arrival, Mr. Dawson had got possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief.

In

In consequence of the wounds he received at this time, Mr. Dawson died a few weeks after.

Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, whom they beat in such a terrible manner, that he also died about the same time as Mr. Dawson.

Thus the lives of two amiable young gentlemen were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Many men, women, and children, were also much wounded in the affray; yet this wretch escaped unpunished: no notice being taken of the many instances of his barbarity.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, which, to the disgrace of the magistrates, he was too much encouraged in. On these occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

The condemnation and death of Porteous happened in the following most extraordinary manner:

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at that time, that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue-officers could not attack them without endangering their lives.

The most active person in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him; and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them as they thought in the Custom-House: but Wilson being a man of an enterprising spirit, and conceiving himself injured, went in company with one Robertson, and some

more of his gang, to the Custom-House, when breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition.

Mr. Stark hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the barons of the exchequer, who immediately applying to the Lord Justice Clark, his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods.

In consequence of the above order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to die.

A custom prevailed in Scotland at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer; when just getting within the door, Wilson (though handcuffed) assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run.

Robertson accordingly took to his heels, and the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out at one of the city gates just as they were going to shut it: a custom constantly observed during divine service.

The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately dispatched in search of him, but all in vain, Robertson meeting with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs, and procured him a horse;
and

and the same evening he got on board a vessel at Dunbar, which landed him safe in Holland.

We are informed that, in the year 1756, he was living, and kept a public-house with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the grass-market, for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous.

Porteous being apprehensive an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace. On which five companies of the Welch fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the lawn-market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance arising, the prisoner finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time; at the expiration of which, the hangman going up the ladder to cut him down, a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others, at which Porteous was so much exasperated, that he instantly called out to his men "Fire and be damned;" discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot.

Some of the soldiers more humanely fired over the heads of the people; but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation.

Por-

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with every thing else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers; on which Porteous, with two of his men, turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead upon the spot; and many wounded.

A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welch fusiliers to enquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welch fusiliers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when being sent for by the provost, he passed a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of justiciary, previous to which Porteous made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His council then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges, previous to the jury being charged with the prisoner:

“ Whether a military officer with soldiers under his command, being assaulted by the populace, should fire, or order his men to fire, was not acting consistent with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized nations?”

The council being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced, as their opinion, “ That if it was proved that captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons was or were killed, and if the said firing happened

“ with-

“ without orders from a magistrate properly authorized, then it would be murder in the eye of the law.”

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury impanelled, forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his council insisted that the magistrates had ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given them for the said purpose, with orders to load their pieces.

They insisted also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his own men for presenting his piece; that finding the men would not obey orders, he drew off as many as he could; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his orders. That in order to know who had fired, he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned till properly inspected, and that he never attempted to escape, though he had the greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the utmost ease.

They farther insisted, that admitting some excesses had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty, and that it could not be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this the council for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when the execution was over; that he was then no longer an officer employed for that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded, and that the reading the riot-act only could justify
their

their firing, in case a rescue had been actually attempted.

The prisoner's council replied, that the magistrates, whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and took refuge in a house for their own security, and that it was hard for men to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head when they had lawful weapons put into their hands to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The king being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the queen, by the advice of her council, granted a respite till his majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put in execution, of which, when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented.

On the seventh of September, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard; they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "All those who dare avenge innocent blood, let them come here." They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when finding some difficulty in breaking open the door with hammers, they immediately set fire to it; taking great care that the flames should not spread beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, "Where is the villain?"

“Iain Porteous?” He replied, “Here I am; “What do you want with me?” To which they answered, that they meant to hang him in the Grass-Market, the place where he had shed so much innocent blood.

His expostulations were all in vain, they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival, they broke open a shop to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck, then throwing the other end over a dyer’s pole, hoisted him up; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, which being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, which obliging him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

On the news of this extraordinary affair being transmitted to London, a proclamation was issued, with a reward of two hundred pounds to any one who would discover his accomplice; in consequence of which some few were taken into custody, but discharged for want of evidence.

The magistrates of Edinburgh were ordered to London; and they were not only fined, but rendered incapable of acting in a judicial capacity ever after.

Thus ended the life of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of such great qualifications that, had they been properly applied, would have rendered him an ornament to his country, and made him exceedingly useful in a military capacity.

To his uncommon spirit and invincible courage, was added a nobleness of soul, that would have done honour to the greatest hero of antiquity. But when advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride, and instead of being the admiration of, he became despised and hated by, his fellow-citizens. The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those in power not to abuse it; but, by an impartial distribution of justice, render themselves worthy members of society.

He was hanged at Edinburgh, September 7th, 1736.



Account of JOHN TOTTERDALE, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the *Murder* of his Wife.

THIS malefactor, who was a native of North Currey, in Somersetshire, after having been employed in the business of agriculture, came to London about the time that he had arrived at the years of maturity, and lived in several families as a servant, maintaining always a respectable character.

Having saved some money in service, he married, and took a public-house in the parish of St. John, Westminster, where he perpetrated the crime which cost him his life.

Coming home one evening, somewhat intoxicated, he sat down to drink with two women who were in a room with his wife. Mrs. Totterdale quitting the room, her husband soon followed her, with a knife and fork in his hand; soon after
which



John Tottendale throwing his Wife down Stairs.

which the cry of murder was heard ; when Daniel Brown, who lodged in the house, running up stairs, saw Totterdale stamp on his wife two or three times, as she lay on the floor.

On this Brown seized the knife and fork which Totterdale still held in his hand, and having got the woman into another room, she locked it, and he persuaded the husband to go down stairs.

Soon afterwards, Totterdale's passion encreasing, he procured a key, with which he opened the door, when his wife was setting at the foot of a bed, with the curtains drawn to hide her ; so that he did not at first observe where she was ; on which Brown waved his hand, intimating that she should retire ; but she did not, being either afraid, or unable to move ; and the husband discovering her, a few words passed between them, when he kicked her, caught hold of her feet, dragged her off the bed, and threw her down about seven of the stairs, where she lay senseless.

Terrified at this sight, Brown ran into his own room, where he staid three or four minutes, and then going down the stairs, found that Totterdale had dragged his wife into a room, and fastened the door : but Brown heard her say, " For Christ's sake " Johnny !—Johnny, for Christ's sake don't kill " me !" Mr. Brown then went out, but found the woman dead when he returned, at the end of about an hour and a half.

The husband was now taken into custody, and the body of the deceased being examined by a surgeon, he found that nine of her ribs were broke, and that her right arm was stabbed into the joint to the depth of four inches.

Totterdale being committed to the Gatehouse, was visited by his wife's sister, who said to him, " O John ! John ! how could you be so barba-

“ rous as to murder your poor wife ?” In answer to which he said, “ The devil overpowered me—I “ was pulled on by the devil, both to begin and “ finish the deed—I cannot recall or undo what “ I have done ; but I wish I could bring back my “ poor, unhappy, unprepared wife from the grave “ again.”

Some of his acquaintance asking him why he did not attempt to make his escape after he had committed the murder, he replied that he had an intention of so doing, but as he was going out of the room, he imagined he heard a voice saying, “ John, John, stay—What have you done ? You “ cannot go off :” which supposed words deprived him of all possibility of effecting his escape.

Being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, the evidence against him was so clear, that the Jury did not hesitate to find him guilty, in consequence of which he was sentenced to die.

After conviction he declared that he had no fear of the disgraceful death that awaited him, and that he would willingly suffer any degree of torture, as an atonement for the crime of which he had been guilty.

On being told that his name was included in the warrant for execution, he replied, “ The “ Lord’s will be done ; I am ready to die, I am “ willing to die ; only I beg of God that I may “ not (though I deserve it) die an eternal death ; “ and though I am cut off from this world for “ my heinous offences, yet I hope it is not im- “ possible that I should live for ever in a better “ state. I have been guilty of the unnatural “ murder of my poor wife : the Lord be more “ merciful to me than I was to her, or else I pe- “ rish.” He added, that he hoped those who had received injuries from him would forgive him ;

him; as he freely forgave those by whom he had been injured.

Totterdale found a generous friend in Mr. Paul, a brewer, who had served him with beer while in trade: for when in prison he supplied him with the necessaries of life. He likewise provided for his two children, and took care to see the unhappy man buried by the side of his wife, agreeable to an earnest request he made in a letter written the day before his execution.

The behaviour of this wretched man after conviction, and at the place of his death, was decent, devout, and resigned, in a high degree. He appeared to be a sincere penitent; and admonished others not to indulge that violence of passion which had ended in his destruction.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 5th of October, 1737.

REFLECTIONS.

There is something very striking in the case of this malefactor. The murder appears to have been unprovoked; and the horrors of his conscience after committing it, exhibit a dreadful picture of the consequences resulting from so enormous a crime.

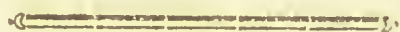
We see that the terrors of his mind were such, that words which he could only *suppose* to have heard, were sufficient to nail him to the spot; so that he was utterly unable to effect an escape.

Conscience is a *just*, but a *severe* monitor! When persons are tempted to be guilty of any crime, they should seriously weigh what may be the consequences of it: and this very reflection would prevent the commission of more than half the crimes that are perpetrated. It is want of reflection, and the blind indulgence of passion, that leads us into those errors that always end in remorse, and frequently in destruction.

Totter-

Totterdale appears to have been a sincere penitent for the crime that he had committed; and we ought to hope that he found mercy with the All-Merciful!—But the better way is, never to be guilty of such offences as must burden the conscience to such a degree, as to call for deep repentance!

We have all of us enough to repent of: but we have one plain path before us; one undeviating rule by which we may secure our peace of mind. Let us then remember to “Do justice, love *mercy*,
“ and WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD!”



The extraordinary Lives and Transactions of
RICHARD COYLE, and JOHN RICH-
ARDSON, who were executed for the *Murder*
of Capt. BENJAMIN HARTLEY.

AT a sessions of admiralty held at the Old Bailey, the prisoners were indicted for the murder of Benjamin Hartley, on the high seas, twenty leagues distant from Padras in Turkey, the particulars of which murder will appear in the course of the following narrative.

RICHARD COYLE was a native of Devonshire, and born near Exeter. His parents having given him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a maritime life, he was apprenticed to the master of a trading vessel, and served his time with reputation to himself and satisfaction to his employer.

When his time was expired, he made several voyages in ships of war, and likewise served on board several merchantmen; and he had also been master of a ship for seventeen years, generally sail-
ing

ing from, and returning to the port of London; and during this period he maintained an unexceptionable character: but meeting with some misfortunes, he served as a mate on board other ships, and at length sailed with Captain Hartley in a ship bound to the Levant; and while in this station became acquainted with Richardson, a sharer in his crime.

JOHN RICHARDSON was the son of a goldsmith at New-York, and having been kept to school till he was fourteen years old, was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but not liking that business, he sailed on board a merchant ship commanded by his name-sake Captain Richardson.

After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connection with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; but on his arrival there he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England.

The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodgings in Horse-down, and soon spent all his money. On this he entered as boatswain on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but being weary of his situation, he soon quitted his station, having first concerted and executed the following scheme of fraud.

Knowing that there was a merchant in the country with whom the captain had dealings, he went to a tavern and wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him an hundred rix dollars. This letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted.

Being

Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam: and soon after his arrival connected himself with a woman whose husband was sailed as a mate of a Dutch East-India ship. With this woman he cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage.

Richardson agreed to depart, but first determined to rob her, and having persuaded her to go to the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and having got her to bed, and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys, but finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out sixty pounds. Some years after this he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she made no complaint of the robbery; by which it may reasonably be supposed that she was afraid her husband might suspect her former illicit connection.

Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he sailed for that place, where he found the captain of a vessel bound to New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days.

On their arrival at Boston, Richardson went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his lodg-

lodgings at a farmer's, he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse.

It being now near the Christmas holidays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with them. His offers were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine; but at length accepted the invitation of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of them very agreeable young women.

Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour, that in a short time all of them were pregnant. But before this circumstance was discovered, there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice of the peace was invited as a bride-maid, and Richardson as a bride man.

Our adventurer, soon becoming intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and warehouse, and offered to make her a present of any piece of goods which she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her.

Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her, and her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting his permission to pay his addresses to the daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock.

There being no licences for marriage in that country, it is the custom to publish the banns three successive Sundays in the church. On the

first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas, made their appearance, to forbid the banns, each of them declaring that she was with child by the intended husband.

Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance: but he had reason to suppose that it would not be long before he should hear from the father of the young lady; whom he had already seduced.

In a few days he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; and with this request Richardson very cheerfully complied: but in about four months he was sent for, when the justice offered him 300*l.* currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; but at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the banns were regularly published, and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it.

However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the girls whom he had debauched, in order to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; on which his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune.

Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connection, he told his wife and her relations, that not being fond of a country life, he would go to New-York, and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family having no sus-

suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection : but he never went near them any more.

Having previously sent his effects to Boston, he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst kind of company, and no person being willing to trust him, he was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread ; and being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder who was a Quaker, who treated him with the greatest indulgence.

The Quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife with whom Richardson wished to be better acquainted ; on which he one day quitted his work, and went home to the house ; but he had but just arrived there when he was followed by the old man, who came in search of him, and found him talking to his wife. The Quaker asked him what business he had there, and why he did not keep at his work. Richardson replied that he only came home for an augur : to which the Quaker said, “ Ah ! friend John, I do not
“ much like thee : my wife knows nothing of thy
“ tools, and I fear thou hadst some evil thoughts in
“ thy head.”

Hereupon Richardson went back to his work, without making any reply, but soon afterwards demanded his wages. The Quaker hesitated to pay him, hinting that he was apprehensive that his wife had paid him already : on which Richardson said he would sue him for the debt, and desired him to consider, that if he made such an excuse in open court, he would be disgraced through the country.

On this the Quaker paid his demand, but absolutely forbade him ever to come within his

house again; and Richardson promised to obey, and intended to have complied with the injunction.

About eight days afterwards the old gentleman having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his young wife to accompany him, to prevent any ill consequences that might arise in his absence. To avoid this journey the lady feigned an indisposition, and took to her bed.

The husband had not been long gone before Richardson meeting the maid-servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress, who, the girl said, wanted to see him: and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening.

Punctual to his engagement, he attended the lady, and renewed his visits to her till the return of her husband was apprehended, when he broke open a chest, and stole about seventy pounds, and immediately agreed with captain Jones for his passage to Philadelphia.

When he arrived at the last mentioned place, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters; and paying his addresses to the mother, he was so successful, that for four months, while he continued there, he acted as if he had been master of the house.

After his intimacy with the mother had continued some time, he became attached to one of the daughters; and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family was absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her; but the mother returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and expressed her anger in the most violent terms.

Nor was this all; for when she was alone with the offender she severely reproached him; but he made his peace by pretending an uncommon attachment.

tachment to her ; yet within a month she found him taking equal freedoms with her other daughter. Incensed at this, she became outrageous, and told him that the consequence of his connection with the other girl was that she was already pregnant. Richardson now quarrelled in his turn, and told her that if her daughter was breeding she must procure her a husband, for he would have nothing to do with her.

At length, when the old woman's passions were in some degree calmed, he represented to her the impossibility of his marrying both her daughters ; but said that if she could procure a husband for one of them, he would take the other.

The old lady soon procured a young fellow to marry one of her daughters, and then the mother constantly teased Richardson to wed the other, which he steadily refused to do, unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time ; but at length said she would give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate ; on which he consented, and the marriage was solemnized : but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina.

Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one captain Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and carpenter to Jamaica, and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business at Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina.

The owner of the ship living about ten miles up the country, and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board, and take care of the vessel. This
he

he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth-day of his owner's only daughter.

A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion.

In the following month it happened that a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; and when he appeared, the young lady welcomed him, wishing that he would oblige the company with a dance; to which he replied, that he should be happy to oblige the company in general, and her in particular.

Richardson being a partner with the young lady during the dancing at the wedding, begged leave to conduct her home; and when the ceremonies of the wedding were ended, he had the honour to attend her to her abode. When they had got into the midst of a thick wood, he pretended to be ill, and said he must get off his horse, and sit down on the ground. She likewise dismounted, and they walked together under the shade of a chestnut-tree, where they remained till the approach of evening, when he conducted her home, after having received very convincing proofs of her kindness.

Going to his ship for that night, he went to her father's house on the following day, and found an opportunity of speaking to her, when he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits; but she said there were so many negro servants about the house that it would be impossible. On
this

this he said he would conduct her to the ship, when the family were asleep, and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was carried on for a fortnight, when she became so apprehensive of a discovery that she would go no longer.

But the lovers being uneasy asunder, they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest.

At length the mother discovered that her daughter was with child, and charged her to declare who was the father, on which she confessed that it was Richardson. The mother acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the old gentleman sent for Richardson to supper, and after rallying him on his prowess, told him that he must marry and support his daughter. Richardson said it was out of his power to support her; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place.

Soon afterwards the old gentleman gave his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo, as a marriage portion, and Richardson embarked, on a trading voyage, to Barbaboes: but he had not been many days at sea when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives.

After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson soon met with a captain Jones, who told him that the wife he had married in Pennsylvania had died of a broken heart. This circumstance, added to that of the loss of his ship, drove him distracted; so that he was confined to his chamber for four months.

On his recovery, he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitt's; but quitting this station in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman who happened to be in company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a hornpipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality.

One day, as he was rambling with the young gentleman, to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua, "True, (said Richardson) but I am a stranger here; I am a Creolian from Meovis."—To this the other asked, "Do you belong to the Richardsons at Meovis? I know their character well."

Our adventurer knowing that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, had the confidence to declare that he was his son; on which the other exclaimed, "You his son, and want money in Antigua! No, no; only draw a bill upon your father, and I will engage that my father shall help you to the money."

The project of raising money in this manner delighted Richardson, whom the young gentleman introduced to his father, who was no sooner acquainted with the pretended loss, than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the above-mentioned sum, and received the money.

About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, informing him how generously

nerously he had been treated by his friends in Antigua, and subscribed himself his dutiful son. This letter he entrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it ; and when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his civilities to his son.

The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt of this letter, which he said contained more compliments than his conduct had deserved : and he told Richardson that he might have any farther sum of money that he wanted. On this our adventurer, who was determined to take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped.

He now embarked on board a vessel bound to Jamaica, and, on his arrival at Port-Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a jew merchant, which, with other goods that the jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a ship for Carthagená, where he disposed of them ; but never went back to discharge his debt to the jew.

From Carthagená he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public-house at Chatham. Now it happened that Ballard had a brother, who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a great resemblance to this brother, the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked him if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered in the negative ; but finding the warm prepossession of the other, and expect-

ing to make some advantage of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother.

Richardson now lived in a sumptuous manner, and without any expence, and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship : at length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to go with him on a visit to them. Richardson readily agreed ; but the two sisters had no recollection of the brother ; however, Ballard persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent ; on which great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country.

After a week of festivity it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham : but the sisters, unwilling to part with their newly found brother, persuaded him to remain awhile at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother who had been extremely fond of him, had left him twenty pounds, and the mare on which she used to ride ; and in a short time he received the legacies.

During his residence with his presumptive sisters, he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate, Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham where he mortgaged the estate for 300*l.* and thence went to Gravesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice.

On his arrival in that place, he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater
part

part of his money, when he sold off his effects, and went to Ancona, where he became acquainted with captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilehards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, the other offender mentioned in this narrative.

Mr. Hartley being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of corn, and sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle, who was chief mate, came on the deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot, to murder the captain, and seize the vessel. Richardson at first hesitated; but at length agreed to take his share in the villainy.

The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him; but getting from them, he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richardson, and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them, and as soon as he gained the deck, Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which missing fire, Mr. Hartley wrested it from his hands, and threw it into the sea.

This being done, Coyle and some other of the sailors threw the captain overboard, but as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows which rather stunned him; but as he did not let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly that he dropped into the sea.

Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they in-

tended to have resisted: but some of the crew objecting to the putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lay too for several days, after which they determined to sail for Foviniano, an island under the dominion of Spain.

When they arrived at this place they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible for them to procure what they wanted.

It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board; but during the night while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch fell asleep: on which two of the boys hauled up a boat, and went on shore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board.

One of the pirates who should have watched being awaked, he ran and called Richardson, whom he informed that the boys were gone; on which Richardson said it was time for them to be gone likewise; on which they hauled up the long-boat without loss of time, and putting on board her such things as would be immediately necessary, they set sail, in the hope of making their escape.

In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates; but it being very dark they could not discern the vessel, though she lay very near the shore: but when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded.

Steer-

Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called Maritime, where they diverted themselves with killing of rabbits : for though the place is apparently little more than a barren rock, yet it so abounds with these animals that a man may easily kill a thousand in a day.

Leaving this place, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came, he told him that he was master of a vessel which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by distress of weather.

This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated ; and in the mean time sent to the English consul to inform him that his countrymen were in distress.

When they had been about a fortnight at this place Richardson sold the long-boat, and having divided the produce among his companions, he went to Tunis, to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told to the governor : on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest thereof for the benefit of the owners, and their own security.

Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and during his intoxication spoke so freely of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England : and Richardson would have been apprehended, but being upon his guard,
and

and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on board a ship bound for Tripoly, where he arrived in safety.

At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant at Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds, and then embarked for the island of Malta, he sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who had lived at Ancona, and remembering his engaging in the service of captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder.

He remained in prison at Messina nine months; on which he wrote a petition to the king of Naples, setting forth that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty, on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's galleys, in consequence of his having turned Roman Catholic.

While he was at Civita Vecchia he became known to captain Blomet, who invited him, with other company, on board his ship; and when the company were gone the captain shewed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon, where he remained three months, and being then put on board the packet boat, and brought to Falmouth, he was conveyed to London; and being lodged first in the Marshalsea, was removed to Newgate, and being tried at the Old-Bailey, received

received sentence of death, as did likewise Coyle, for the murder of captain Hartley.

After conviction Coyle acknowledged the equity of the sentence against him, and in some letters to his friends confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences.

With respect to Richardson, he seemed regardless of the dreadful fate that awaited him; and having lived a life of vice and dissipation, appeared altogether indifferent to the manner in which that life should end.

The above mentioned malefactors were hanged at Execution-dock, on the 25th of January, 1738.

With regard to Coyle we do not hear that he had been guilty of any notorious crime but that for which he suffered; but the life of Richardson was such a continued scene of irregularity, deception, fraud, and vice, as is almost unequalled. His treachery to the many unhappy women of whom he pretended to be enamoured was alone deserving of the fate which finally fell to his lot.

His conduct respecting these should afford a hint of caution to young women to be upon their guard against the insidious artifices of men: while his behaviour from the first embarking into life to his final exit, should teach every one who reads the narrative of his life, that the utmost artifice will fail to supply the place of honesty: and that the man of abandoned principles, while he thinks he is travelling the high road of pleasure, is but seeking the cross-path which leads to destruction.

Nothing

Nothing is so easy, so pleasant, so satisfactory as the discharge of our duty : and on the contrary, nothing produces such anxiety, such uneasiness, and perturbation of mind, as a wilful perseverance in the paths of vice. This consideration ought to influence us, if our crimes had reference only to the present state of existence ; but when we consider that there is an eternity of happiness or misery to ensue, it is something more than the extravagance of folly, something worse than madness to seek, by our vices, while in this state of probation, to render ourselves unhappy for eternal ages. We should remember that

Just as a tree cut down, that fell
To north, or southward, there it lies ;
So man departs to heaven or hell,
Fix'd in the state wherein he dies.

Account of WILLIAM UDALL, who was
hanged at *Tyburn*, for a *High-way Robbery*.

THIS offender was a native of the parish of Clerkenwell, where his father carried on a considerable trade as a distiller. Having been liberally educated, he was apprenticed to a watch-maker in Leadenhall-street, where he had served but a short time when he learnt from the journeymen the practice of scraping gold from the insides of watch cases ; which he sold, and dissipated the produce in acts of extravagance.

His master dying at the end of four years, and his mistress declining business, he was turned
over

over to another master, with whom he differed before he had been with him a quarter of a year, and went to live with one Mr. Stanbridge of Clerkenwell, who engaged to procure him his freedom at the expiration of the term for which he was originally apprenticed.

He had not been long in the service of Stanbridge before he connected himself with a number of young pickpockets, with whom he used to go out of an evening, and steal watches, swords, hats, and any thing they could lay their hands on, which they deposited with one Williams, in Hanging-Sword-Alley, Fleet-Street, who disposed of the effects, and shared the booty with the young thieves.

Udall's father was apprized of his living in an irregular manner; but had no idea that he had proceeded to such lengths as to become a robber. However, to reclaim him from his evil courses, he took a house for him, and put him into business in a very reputable way.

One of Udall's companions was a youth named Raby, who having served his time to a barber, his friends likewise put him into business, and for some months the young fellows appeared to attend the duties of their respective professions; but they had not quitted their old connections; for they used to go almost every night to Drury-Lane, to a house of ill-fame, which was kept by a woman named Bird.

In this place they associated with several young fellows of abandoned character, who taught them the arts of gaming; so that in a short time Udall quitted his business, though he had a great prospect of success in trade. Being in possession of a number of watches belonging to his customers, he

sold them to a Jew, and appropriated the produce to the purposes of his own extravagance.

Having dissipated all his money, his associates hinted to him that, as he was acquainted with a number of watch-makers, he might easily take up work in the name of his late master, and sell the articles for his own emolument. He followed this pernicious advice, and was for some time a gainer by the project.

He had likewise another artifice by which he frequently obtained money. He would sell watches which he declared to be worth five or six guineas each; but take only half the money, till the purchasers were convinced of their goodness; and as he knew that these watches would not go well, they were always returned to be rectified; on which he sold them to other people, and the original purchasers were defrauded.

At length Udall and Raby agreed to commence highwaymen, and in consequence thereof committed a number of robberies in and near Epping-Forest, Finchley-Common, &c. one of which was attended with a circumstance of unusual barbarity.

These associates in wickedness having stopped the St. Alban's coach, robbed the passengers of about five pounds, and immediately put spurs to their horses: but they had not rode far before Udall said that a lady in the coach had a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back, and the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the remorseless villain drew a knife, and cut off her finger for the sake of the paltry prize.

This horrid action being perpetrated, they rode to Hampstead, and having robbed some other people the same evening, they hastened to Drury-Lane, where they divided the spoil.

These

These companions in vice had another scheme which was frequently successful. When the company was coming out of the theatres, one of them would accost a lady or gentleman, pretending to know the party, and in the interim the other seldom failed of making prize of a watch.

As Udall was walking one evening under the piazza of Covent Garden, he was accosted by an old man of genteel appearance, who enquiring what trade he was, he pretended to be a countryman come to see London; on which the other invited him to a tavern to drink; and Udall gave a hint to his companions to follow him, in expectation of obtaining a booty.

The others waited at the door, while Udall discovered that his new acquaintance was a devotee to the most unnatural of all passions; on which he invited him to take a walk into Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; and when they came to a dead wall the whole gang attacked the old wretch, and then threw him into a ditch*, after having robbed him of a gold watch and twelve guineas: a just, though very inadequate, punishment for the crime of which he would have been guilty.

It was a common practice with Udall to go to the shops of goldsmiths, and under the pretence of buying gold rings, he would steal them, and leave brass rings in the shew-glass; and he was so dextrous in this kind of robbery that he was scarce ever detected.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach

*At this period Lincoln's-Inn-Fields was a very ruinous place; but has been brought into its present elegant state in consequence of a subsequent act of parliament.

on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being behind the coach with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away; and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall guarded the coachman and postilion while Baker robbed the company; but this was no sooner done than the guard produced a horse pistol, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground; on which Baker shot the guard; so that he instantly expired.

Udall was conveyed to a farm-house near Uxbridge by his accomplices, and lay there six weeks before he recovered; but soon afterwards they killed the person who guarded another coach as it was going over Turnham Green.

In a short time after the commission of this atrocious crime Udall knocked down a young woman in Fenchurch-street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief, and her pocket, which contained only a few half-pence.

Udall's father, distressed at his son's proceeding, and wishing to save him from an ignominious fate, procured him to be arrested and lodged in the Compter, hoping that when his companions were disposed of by the operation of the law, he might be out of future danger: but it happened that Ramsey, one of his old associates, was confined in the same prison at the same time; which coming to the knowledge of Udall's father, he got his son released.

Ramsey being enlarged soon afterwards, they met at an alehouse, and having resolved to go on the high-way, they went to a livery stable at London-Wall, where they hired horses, and going on the Stratford road, procured a considerable booty in money and watches, from the passengers in several coaches.

Udall

Udall kept company with a woman named Margaret Young, who had likewise lived with several other men. Being one day distressed for cash, he robbed this woman of five gold rings, in consequence of which she had him apprehended by a judge's warrant, and he was lodged in the house of a tipstaff, Mrs. Young swearing that the rings were the property of another man with whom she had cohabited.

During Udall's confinement the supposed owner of the rings offered to decline the prosecution, if he would enter into a bond never again to live with Mrs. Young: but as he rejected this offer, an order was made for his commitment to the King's-Bench: but he and another prisoner effected their escape from the house of the tipstaff, by forcing the keys from the maid-servant.

Not long after this adventure, Udall and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand for which they were all of them apprehended; but Udall became an evidence against his accomplices, by which he escaped the fate which he had so frequently merited.

Soon after Udall had thus obtained his liberty, he casually met with Margaret Young, in company with the presumptive owner of the rings above-mentioned, who threatened to arrest Udall for the value of them, unless he would give him a note for four pounds. Udall complying with this demand, and being unable to pay the note when it became due, was arrested, and standing trial, was cast, and ordered to discharge both debt and costs.

Udall's relations, who had been put to great expence on his account, refused to pay this debt, so that he became a prisoner in the Marshalsea; but some of his acquaintance having furnished him

him with saws and ropes, he made his escape, in company with another prisoner, named Man; and while they were escaping a neighbour would have stopped them, but that they threatened his life with the most dreadful imprecations.

After this adventure Udall went to see his relations, and promised them that he would go to Holland, if they would only supply him with money to pay for his passage. This they readily did, and promised to remit him a sum once a year towards his support, on the condition of his continuing abroad: but he had no sooner possessed himself of the present cash, than he went to a house of ill fame in Charter-House-Lane, where he spent the whole money.

Being thus impoverished, he and his fellow-prisoner, Man, agreed to go on the high-way; and the woman of the house having furnished them with pistols, they rode beyond Edmonton, where they robbed four ladies in a coach, and returning to London, spent their ill-gotten gains in Charter-House-Lane.

On the following day they took three gold watches, five pounds, and some silver, from the passengers in a waggon on the Western road, near Brentford; and soon afterwards they robbed two gentlemen near Epping Forest; on their return from which expedition Udall fell from his horse, and was so bruised as to be obliged to keep his bed for several days.

When his health was somewhat re-established, and his money expended, they went again on the road; and having supped at the castle at Holloway, they robbed three gentlemen near Islington, and spent their money at their old place of resort in Charter-House-Lane.

About

About this time information was given to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison of the place of their resort; on which he sent a number of men to take them into custody; but just as they were entering at the door, our adventurers, having notice of their approach, escaped over the roof of the house.

The runners of the prison being disappointed in getting possession of the men, took into custody the mistress of the house and her servant; but these were soon afterwards dismissed, on their engaging to assist in the apprehension of the prison-breakers.

Some days afterwards, when Man and Udall were strolling in the neighbourhood of Islington, in search of prey, they met their old landlady, in company with two of the runners of the Marshalsea; on which the robbers produced pistols, and vowed vengeance against the first person who should molest them. The woman said that they had nothing to fear, for there was no intention of injuring them, and persuaded them to walk in company as far as Pancras, to drink at a public-house.

Having continued drinking some time, one of the men spoke privately to Udall, and made him the offer of his liberty if he would assist in apprehending his companion who had been confined for a large debt.

Udall said he was unwilling that Man should be taken while in his company, lest he should be deemed treacherous to his trust; but he would leave him as soon as they reached London, when the others might take him into custody. This, however, was only a trick of Udall's; for when he got into the fields he privately communicated what had passed to Man, and both of them turning
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ing round at the same instant, presented pistols, and threatened immediate destruction to the other parties unless they retired; which they thought it prudent to do for their own security.

The accomplices now committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Epping-Forest; and Udall having one night left his horse at a public-house on the forest, went to Man's lodgings in an absolute state of intoxication. While he was in this situation Man went out, and locked the door, on the pretence of care that the men from the Marshalsea should not apprehend his companion: but he immediately delivered himself into custody, and gave the key to the runners, who entering the house, seized Udall in bed, and conveyed them both to their former apartments.

Man now seriously reflected on his situation; and being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who would charge him with a capital offence, he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of his having committed several robberies on the highway.

Hereupon Udall was committed to Newgate, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, he was convicted, principally on the evidence of Man; and received sentence of death.

After conviction he seemed at once to give up all hopes of life; conscious that his offences were so numerous and so aggravated that he had no reason to expect an extension of the royal mercy in his favour.

He acknowledged that, from the time when he was first apprenticed, he had been a total stranger to common honesty; and that his father had paid and expended above four hundred pounds in fruitless endeavours to save him from ruin.

This

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 14th of March, 1738, in the 22d year of his age.

REFLECTIONS.

The keeping of bad company appears to have been one great cause of Udall's destruction, as it has been that of thousands besides. There is not a doctrine in the whole system of religion or morality, more worthy of being impressed on the minds of youth than that which inculcates the necessity of keeping good company. The mind is as necessarily influenced by the ideas of those with whom we associate, as a stream of fair water is discoloured by that of a fouler stream running into it.

Hence, then, let young people learn, that on the choice of their company much of their present and future happiness may depend; and that one day spent in the practice of religion and virtue, will afford more solid satisfaction than an age of vice.

It is only by doing our duty that we can expect to be happy; and it is only by a departure from it that we have any reason to dread a continuance of misery, either in this world or the next. God is ever gracious; and those who obey his divine will, need not entertain the least doubt of being sheltered under his Almighty protection.



Account of the Lives of JOHN TOON and EDWARD BLASTOCK, who were Hanged at Tyburn for a Robbery on the Highway.

THE parents of JOHN TOON were respectable inhabitants of Shoreditch, who having bestowed on him a liberal education, apprenticed

him to a capital ironmonger who had married his sister; but not being happy in this situation, his father sent him to sea at the expiration of three years.

After two voyages to Barbadoes, he grew tired of the life of a seaman, which he quitted to live with his uncle, who was a carman, and in whose service he behaved so unexceptionably, that on the death of the uncle, which happened soon afterwards, he took possession of four hundred pounds, which his relation had bequeathed him, as the reward of his good conduct.

Soon after becoming possessed of this money, he married the sister of Edward Blastock, and began to live in a most extravagant manner. When he had dissipated half his little fortune, Blastock proposed that they should go into Yorkshire, and embark in public business.

This proposal being accepted, they took an inn at Sheffield, the place of Blastock's birth; but both the landlords being better calculated to spend than to get money, Toon soon found his circumstances embarrassed.

Thus situated, he reflected on Blastock for advising him to take the inn; and the other recriminated, by recounting the faults of Toon. In consequence of this dissention, Blastock brought his wife to London, whither Toon and his wife soon followed, after selling off their effects.

Toon, who was now totally reduced, met his own elder brother one day in Cheapside. This brother, who was a dyer in Shoreditch, took little notice of the other; but as Toon imagined he was going out for the day, he went to his house, and met with his wife, who entreated him to stay dinner, to which he consented, and in the mean time he went to see the men at work, and finding
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one among them of genteel appearance, whom he learnt was his brother's book-keeper, he became extremely enraged that his brother should employ a stranger in this station in preference to himself, at a time that he was in circumstances of distress.

In this agitation of mind he returned into the house, and whilst his sister-in-law was gone into another room, he stole a small quantity of silver plate, and decamped: and having soon spent the produce of this theft, he determined on the dangerous and fatal resource of the highway.

His first expedition was to Epping Forest, where he waited a long time in expectation of a booty, and at length observing a coach come from Lord Castlemain's seat, he used the most dreadful imprecations to compel the coachman to stop, and robbed two ladies of near three pounds, with a girdle-buckle, and an etwee case.

He now imagined that he had got a valuable prize; but he at length pawned the buckle and etwee for twelve shillings, finding that the latter was base metal, though he had mistaken it for gold; and the former was set with chrystal stones instead of diamonds, as they had appeared to his eye.

He soon spent his ill-gotten treasure, and going again on the high-way, stopped and robbed several persons, among whom was a gentleman named Currier, who earnestly exhorted him to decline his present course of life, not only from the immorality, but the danger of it. The robber thanked the gentleman for his advice, but said that he had no occasion for it, as he was sufficiently apprized of his danger, but he must have his money, on pain of instant death; and having robbed him of three guineas, he decamped with the utmost expedition.

One of his next robberies was on Epping Forest, where he dispossessed a gentleman of his money and a gold watch, which he left in the hands of a receiver of stolen goods, to dispose of to the best advantage: but the watch being of value, and in high estimation with the owner, he advertised it, with a reward of eight guineas; on which the receiver delivered it, and took the money, but gave Toon only seven of them, pretending that was all he could obtain.

Toon, not having read the advertisement, was ignorant of the trick that had been put upon him; but being some days afterwards upon Epping-Forest, and having in vain waited some time for a booty, he went to the Green Man by Lord Castlemain's house, where he heard one of his lordship's footmen recounting the particulars of the robbery, and saying that the watch had been recovered on giving eight guineas for it.

This circumstance determined Toon never to lodge any of his future booties in the hands of this man. But it will now be proper to say something of the other malefactor, whose story makes a part of this narrative.

EDWARD BLASTOCK was a native of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, and having been well educated, was apprenticed in London, to a peruke-maker in the Temple: and his master dying when he had served about five years, his mistress declined trade, and gave the young fellow his indentures, on the representation of the gentlemen of the law, that they wished him, rather than any other, to succeed her late husband.

But the rent of the house being high, Blastock was afraid to enter on business so early in life, as he was at that time only eighteen years of age: on which he took two rooms in White-Friars, where

where he began to practise in his profession, and met with great success.

Coming by this means into the possession of money before he knew the value of it, he attached himself to the fashionable pleasures of the town, by which he soon incurred more debts than he could discharge ; so that he was obliged to decline business, and have recourse to the profession of a strolling player ; refusing to accept of a valuable place which was offered him by a gentleman of the Temple.

Soon afterwards Blastock married, had several children, and being reduced to great distress, went into Yorkshire with Toon, as hath been already mentioned.

On his return from Yorkshire he again engaged in the profession of a strolling player, and, after some time, casually meeting with Toon, the latter represented the advantages to be made by the life of a highwayman, and wished him to embark in that business ; which he declined on the double score of its danger and immorality.

Not long after this refusal Blastock was seized with an indisposition, which threatened his life, and confined him so long that his wife was obliged to pawn almost all her effects for his support ; and being visited by Toon during this illness, the latter represented to him how easy it was to obtain a genteel support, by having recourse to the highway.

Blastock had no sooner recovered his health, than, depressed by want, he yielded to the dangerous solicitation, and went with his accomplice to Epping-Forest, where they stopped the chariot of a gentleman, whom they robbed of a few shillings and a pocket-piece, and then came to London.

On the following day they went again towards the forest; but, in crossing Hackney-Marsh, Toon's horse sunk in a slough, where he continued for so long a time that they found it impossible to achieve any profitable adventure for that night.

Thus disappointed, they returned to London, and on the 27th of February following set out on another expedition, which proved to be their last of the kind. While Toon was loading his pistols he was prepossessed with the idea that his fate was speedily approaching; nevertheless he resolved to run every hazard: on which they rode as far as Muswell-Hill, where they stopped a gentleman named Seabroke, and demanded his money.

The gentleman gave them eighteen shillings, saying it was all he had, and adding, "God bless you, gentlemen, you are welcome to it." Toon then demanded his watch, which Mr. Seabroke delivered, expressing himself again in the same words.

This robbery being committed, they galloped hard towards Highgate, and their horses being almost tired, Blastock, stung with the guilt of his conscience, looked frequently behind him, in apprehension that he was pursued; and so strong was this terror of his mind, that both of them agreed to quit their horses, and make their escape.

They now ran through a farm-yard, and taking the back road which leads from Highgate to Hampstead, they got to London on foot; and Blastock now declared his determination never to embark in such another project, while he congratulated himself on his narrow escape.

They now took a solemn oath that, if either of them should be apprehended, neither would impeach the other; and the watch obtained in the
last

last robbery being sold for two guineas, Blastock received his share, and went to join a company of strolling players at Chatham.

The stolen watch being advertised, the purchaser carried it to Mr. Seabroke, telling him that he knew Toon, and would assist in taking him into custody; the consequence of which was, that the offender was lodged in Newgate on the same day.

Toon kept his oath in declining to give any information against his accomplice; but Blastock having agreed to go with the players to a greater distance from London than Chatham, returned to town to bid his wife and children adieu.

When he arrived, which was about midnight, his wife and her sister were in bed; and the former having opened the door, he was informed that Toon was in custody, and advised to seek his safety by an immediate flight.

This advice, however, he did not take; and in the morning, Toon's wife desired he would stay while she visited her husband, declaring that she would not mention his having returned to London.

On her return from this visit, she wept much, and expressed her wishes for the approach of night, that he might retire in safety. In the evening, while supper was providing, she went out, under pretence of a visit to her husband, but instead thereof, she went to Toon's brother, who taking her before a magistrate, some peace-officers were sent to take Blastock into custody.

Mrs. Toon directed the officers to the room where Blastock was, in company with two men of his acquaintance, who were advising him on the emergency of his affairs. Blastock suspecting
some

some foul play, concealed himself in a closet; and when the officers came in, they first seized one, and then the other of the persons present; but were soon convinced that neither of them was the party they were in search of.

On this the officers made a stricter search, and finding Blastock in the closet, took him into custody. Having taken leave of his wife and children, they carried him before a magistrate, who asked him if he had not a worse coat than that which he then wore. Blastock owned that he had, and actually sent for it; and it was kept to be produced in evidence against him.

While the officers were conveying him to Newgate, in a coach, they told him that Mrs. Toon had given the information against him; at which he was so shocked, that it was some time before he could recover his recollection, being absolutely insensible when he was lodged in prison.

These malefactors being tried at the next Sessions at the Old Bailey, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; and, after conviction, were confined in the same cell: but being unhappy together, from their mutual recriminations of each other, the keeper caused them to be separated.

Toon behaved more penitently than malefactors usually do; and Blastock exhibited an uncommon instance of unfeigned penitence and contrition.

They were executed at Tyburn, on the 26th of May, 1738, after having embraced each other at the place of their death, and Blastock had delivered the following speech to the surrounding multitude:

“ Dear

“ Dear Friends,

I DO not come here to excuse myself, although I have been first led into the crime for which I suffer, and then basely betrayed; no, I am sensible of my guilt, nor should I have made the world acquainted with this barbarous treatment, that I have met with, even from a near relation, had it not been with a view of preventing the ruin of many young persons.

Let my fate be an example to them, and never let any man in trade, think himself above his business, nor despise the offers of those who would serve him. Let them purchase wisdom at my cost, and never let slip any opportunity, that bids fair to be of the least advantage to them; for experience tells me, that had I done, as I now advise you, I had never come to this end.

The next thing is, never to trust your life in the hands of a near relation; for money will make those who pretend to be your nearest friends, your most bitter enemies. Never be persuaded to do any thing you may be sorry for afterwards, nor believe the most solemn oaths, for there is no truth in imprecations; rather take a man's word, for those that will swear will lie. Not but that I believe there are some in the world, who would suffer the worst of deaths, rather than betray the trust reposed in them.

What I have here declared, as I am a dying man, I protest before God, is true; and here before God and the world, I freely forgive those who betrayed me, and die in peace with all mankind.

I implore the forgiveness of that God, who has promised pardon and forgiveness, to all those

who sincerely repent ; and I hope I have done my best endeavours while in prison, to make my peace with a justly offended God : I hope the moment I leave this troublesome world my soul will be received into eternal happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

I conclude with my prayers for the welfare of my poor unhappy wife and children, who are now reduced to misery ; and taking a long farewell of the world, I commit my spirit into the hands of him who gave me being."

The most remarkable circumstance observable in the lives of the above-mentioned malefactors, is the stings of conscience by which they were respectively agitated.

When Toon was loading his pistols to go on his last expedition, he was impelled to think that the fatal hour was near approaching : and Blastock's looking behind him, after the robbery was committed, and being in terror of pursuers, when no one pursued, paints, in a most forcible manner, the horror arising from conscious guilt.

Who can read these particulars of their story without being struck with an idea of the odiousness of vice, and the comparative beauty of virtue ? The former will be always a torment to those who pursue it : the latter an inexhaustible source of pleasure to its admirers !



Account of the Life of JOSEPH JOHNSON, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for Privately Stealing, when he was near sixty Years of Age.

THIS offender was the son of poor parents who lived in the Old-Jewry, and his education

cation being totally neglected, he kept bad company almost from his infancy, and becoming a pickpocket, while yet a child, he continued that practice till he was above twenty years of age.

He then took to a new mode of defraud. He used to meet porters and errand boys in the streets, and, by a variety of false pretences, get possession of the goods entrusted to their care.* For one of those offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, where he was acquitted in defect of evidence.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he had recourse to his former practices, till being apprehended for stealing a sword, he was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years transportation.

It happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed of a stolen bank-note, which was changed, as is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity for their liberty: for when they arrived in America, they were set at large, and took lodgings at New-York, where they lived some time in an expensive manner; and the captain, on his return to England, stopped at Rotterdam, where he offered the stolen note to a banker; on which he was lodged in prison, and did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty.

Johnson and his associate having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all

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* That is an artifice that has been practiced with too much success of late years: but if servants entrusted with goods would deliver them only according to the orders given by their employers, the designs of thieves would in general be frustrated.

the places of public diversion. Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the croud, and steal watches, &c. which his accomplice carried off unsuspected.

The effects thus stolen were constantly sold to Jews, who sent them to Holland, where they were sold, and the robbers escaped undetected.

In the summer time, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune, and the latter as his servant.

On their arrival at an inn, they enquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood; and when they had learnt the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the servant was dispatched to tell the farmer that the Esquire would be glad to speak with him at the inn; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in the public funds was, very considerable.

This bait generally succeeded: the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the Esquire in an elegant undress; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying, that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day: but not having sufficient cash in his possession, he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum; and assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour.

To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid; and, by artifices of
this

this-kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money ; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person, so that detection was almost impossible.

This practice he continued for a succession of years ; and in one of his expeditions of this kind got possession of a thousand pounds, with which he escaped unsuspected.

In order to avoid detection, he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant-maid to open the window, lest he should be discovered.

Thus he continued, committing these kind of frauds, and living in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years ; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions to the country ; but thought of exercising his talents in London.

Hereupon he picked the pockets of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of clothes, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet with the kept mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day.

He attended the invitation, when she informed him that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to the proposal ; but while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr. Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of five hundred pounds.

Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day. when he should have accounted with his employer. When the discovery was made, im-

mediate notice was sent to the Bank to stop payment of the notes; and Johnson was actually changing one of them to the amount of fifty pounds, when the messenger came thither.

Hereupon he was taken into custody; and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing, and being capitally convicted, was sentenced to die.

After conviction he behaved in the most improper manner, appearing to have no adequate sense of the awful fate that awaited him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 19th of July, 1738, without making any confession of his crimes, and refusing to join in the customary devotions on such an awful occasion.

The case of this malefactor is very extraordinary. He continued his lawless depredations on the public for a much longer period of time than falls to the lot of offenders in general; yet he was at length taken in the snare, and fell a victim to the violated laws of his country.

Hence then let it be learnt that no continuance in guilt can ensure security; and that the longer the villain proceeds in the practice of his crimes, the longer is his term of misery extended: for it is impossible that any man can be happy, who is in perpetual apprehension of the consequence that must infallibly result from his guilt.

A wish to possess ourselves illegally of the property of others cannot be guarded against too anxiously. We ought respectively to pray, in the language of an excellent writer,

Guard my heart, O God of Heaven,

Lest I covet what's not mine;

Lest I steal what is not given,

Guard my heart and hands from sin.

Account

